

Colonel John R. Wood

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November 13, 1950

combat? Dr. Shields Warren feels that we already have sufficient data to answer this question. In this I concur. However, this answer is unacceptable to a large number of doctors and does not have the backing of any organized group. It is felt that a problem of such vital concern to the military should have the consideration and advice of a group representative of American medicine. If such a group feels that the best answer is already available, the military should be so advised. If it is not available, the military should be advised concerning methods of securing such an answer.

Dr. Gregg and the members of his committee were extremely interested in this problem and Dr. Gregg volunteered to assume the responsibility of obtaining this answer from a group of nationally known medical authorities. The military expressed their appreciation to Dr. Gregg for this suggestion.

Sincerely yours,

James P. Cooney
Brigadier General, MC
Chief, Radiology Branch
Division of Military Application

cc: Adm. Greaves, USN
Capt. Haight, USN
Capt. Behrens, USN
Brig. Gen. Powell, USAF

JPCooney/vks

SO Addressee
Adm. Greaves
Capt. Haight
Capt. Behrens
Gen. Powell
Gen. Cooney
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15 Nov 1950

Resume of the meeting with the Advisory Board of the Division of Biology and Medicine, Atomic Energy Commission - 10 November 1950.

1. The Advisory committee consists of the following:

- Dr. Alan Gregg - Chairman
- Dr. Ernest W. Goodpasture
- Dr. Detlev W. Bronk
- Dr. Edward A. Doisy
- Dr. Curt Stern
- Dr. Joseph T. Wearn

2. The Surgeons General were represented by Brig. Gen. James P. Cooney, USA; Brig. Gen. William Powell, USAF; and Rear Admiral F. C. Greaves, USN. Dr. Shields Warren represented the AEC.

3. The meeting was opened with a report upon the various research projects in the medical field being currently sponsored by the AEC.

4. Dr. Warren stated that the problem of the AEC encompassed the whole field of atomic energy implications within the field of medicine and necessarily included both military and civilian interests. The first item on the agenda was to ascertain the viewpoints of the military services with respect to the AEC research program, particularly as it affected their problems.

5. The Chairman called upon the various service representatives in turn for such comments as they desired to make.

6. The Navy viewpoint was expressed by Admiral Greaves who stated that he believed the program as outlined to be satisfactorily broad and comprehensive and obviously designed to answer many of the problems that affected the country as a whole. The Navy was interested in all these investigations because it has the same problems, in common with the civilian components of the nation as well as with the other branches of the Armed Forces. The data resulting from the AEC research program would be universally applicable. There were some additional problems which are peculiar to the Naval Service which were being investigated at naval installations. One of these concerned contamination and decontamination of ships. Another problem, as yet unanswered was that concerned with permissible exposure data if and when nuclear energy is used to provide the power in submarines and other ships. It was pointed out that the problem was of concern because of necessity for the crews to continue the operation of the ship without the probable chance for replacements of those who might become over-exposed.

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7. Captain Behrens and Captain Haight elaborated upon what was known about permissible dosages and the difficulties of applying those data to the problem, the main consideration being operational effectiveness and proper disposition of personnel who have received a substantial dose of radiation.

8. General Cooney presented the Army viewpoint by stating the great discrepancy among recognized authorities on permissible dosages. The opinions of these experts had been canvassed and was found to vary from 25 r to 800 r. Such data is of little value to the medical officer with troops who is asked to determine the availability of exposed men for combat duty.

9. The Army proposed human experimentation on a group of 200 service volunteers to determine the effects of operational effectiveness to dosages of total body radiation within presumably low safe zones.

10. This provoked general discussion among all the members of the Advisory committee. They felt that human experimentation was not justified and that sufficient information could be obtained from animal experimentation and interpolation from clinical data.

11. The Chairman volunteered to obtain the opinions of qualified authorities in the field of radiology upon the value of present information in solving the problem of the military services.

F. C. GREAVES

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