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Records Series Title	SCIENTISTS' RECORDS CORNELIUS TOBIAS
Accession No.	434-01-0100
File Code No.	10-A-103
Carton No.	27
Folder No.	1001-20X
Notes	IRON METABOLISM USING "NORMAL"
Found	KAREN HOLMES (SCIENTISTS)
Date:	

1001-20X

715047



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION  
Hospital  
4435 Beacon Avenue..  
Seattle 8, Washington

September 30, 1955

YOUR FILE REFERENCE:

IN REPLY REFER TO:

AIR MAIL

Professor Cornelius A. Tobias  
Donner Laboratory of  
Biophysics and Medical Physics  
University of California  
Berkeley 4, California

Dear Cornelius:

I am glad that you looked over our article of "Kinetics of Iron Metabolism." I expected you would have had more serious criticism than what you mention in your letter.

The four individuals who are regarded as normals were chosen on the basis of the absence of any overt symptoms or signs. It turned out after we completed the studies that we found reason in one of the cases for the high plasma iron. [REDACTED] had the habit of eating beefsteak for breakfast almost every morning. His plasma iron was consistently about 200 mgms./100 cc's of plasma. When we fit his data and found that his apparent iron pools were as big as they are, we seriously considered whether he should not have a liver or bone marrow biopsy for iron on the basis that he possibly has incipient hematochromatosis. The other individual high in plasma iron is [REDACTED]. Our experience with people of Portuguese and Spanish extraction has consistently shown them to have higher plasma irons than other people. This experience is limited to the South American studies and a few studies made in this country.

The kinetics of globulin IV-7 bound radioiron are always slower than if the iron is injected in the form of citrate or ascorbate which has previously been incubated with plasma. The studies reported in this paper were done with the globulin and we think give a truer indication of the rate of erythropoiesis than does the use of the other preparations. Our opinion, however, is not shared by everyone; for example, Clem Finch here believes that it may be better to use the plasma incubated preparation because of the possible nonuniformity of the various globulin IV-7's obtained from different, and for that matter, the same pharmaceutical houses. We believe that this is actually the major problem now in planning experiments and doing routine work with radioiron; that is, what is the most appropriate preparation for injection?

An inquiry by or concerning an ex-service man or woman should, if possible, give veteran's name and file number, whether C, XC, K, N, V, H, RH, RS, or loan number. If such number is unknown, service or serial number should be given.

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Records Series Title	SCIENTIST RECORDS CORNELIUS TOBIAS
Accession No.	LSA-PA-0100
File Code No.	10-8-63
Carton No.	23
Folder No.	HUFF, REX
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copy

In all seriousness, I think you might pass this letter on to Doctors Lawrence, Weaver and Dobson in regard to the possibility of having hematochromatosis. If a physical examination done with this in mind should indicate it, we could see him here at the University for further studies.

We have continued working on the data from Berkeley and we are at the point of realizing that we lack some of the uptake values, and of course, in some instances, we need clinical summaries for each of the patients. I have been thinking about coming down to look over some of the old charts for this purpose if it would be all right with you and Dr. Lawrence. However, I wonder if it might be possible to get the information by correspondence.

Sincerely yours,



REX L. HUFF, M.D.

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