the inevitable consequence of the focus on individual genes and molecules. However, as molecular biology has penetrated deeply into immunology, we seem to be losing sight of the broader picture. I wish that I had a companion to this book that started with general immune phenomena and then focused on the organ, cellular, and ultimately molecular levels.

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COMMUNICATIONS

Letter to the Editors

"Those Were the Days"

The recently published reminiscence by Polly Crawford (how we shall all miss her and her ever-ready smile) is the perfect jumping-off point for one of my own. She states she was new to blood banking when she first visited Milwaukee and Dr. Tibi Greenwalt. I was almost as new, having come to Milwaukee via Canada from England, having just obtained the Canadian medical technology equivalent of an SBB. I had been hired by Dr. Greenwalt as a research technologist and, having reported for work on January 2, 1961, I was asked to attend a research session on the first Sunday (a Sunday!) in the old Milwaukee Blood Center library, a room of wonders to someone learning their way—as I was—run by a delightful lady of whom I have many fond memories. On the blackboard were the blood groups of the Crawford family; the paper was being prepared for publication. The discussion centered on the genetics of the pedigree, and a possible explanation for the findings was being sought. "What have you got yourself into?" was my thinking as I left in a daze in the late afternoon. Incidentally, a dominant suppressor gene was one of the suggestions explored that day, and it was written into the originally submitted paper but taken out when the reviewers objected quite strongly. Isn't hindsight wonderful?

Now we come to my story. The first major project that I was given to work on was an exploration of a possible link between U and Jsª. I was busily collecting samples from families from a large area of eastern Wisconsin in whom one member was U-negative and Jsª(a+). That such individuals could be located was due in large part to the systematic search for rare donors that Dr. Greenwalt had initiated when he arrived to take charge of the Milwaukee Blood Center.

Parenthetical to this story is remembering a wonderful lady who cooperated in persuading all of her siblings, husbands, children, and parents to provide a blood sample for testing. She was, however, quite concerned about my testing one of her sisters, and put me off many times. As we got to know each other well, she finally confided in me that she was not sure that her sister's children were fathered by the husband. I said whatever we discovered would be safe from disclosure, and I finally got to meet the family: wife, husband, and seven children. Sure enough, it was doubtful that he was the father of any of them! In fact, it was pretty clear that several different "husbands" were involved, and that could lead to another story that perhaps I can be persuaded to tell one day.

By 1963 we had pedigree after pedigree and a freezer full of blood samples. We were pretty certain that the link being sought did not exist, and I was beginning to work on new projects. This was the year of the Memphis AABB annual meeting. Dr. Greenwalt arrived home from the meeting with serum and red blood cells provided to him by Dr. Richard Walker, who was working at Baptist hospital in Memphis at that time. The samples were from a pregnant (as I remember) African American woman who had made an antibody that Dr. Walker had been unable to identify, and whose serum had tested positive with every red blood cell that had been tried. I was asked to work up the samples. In my initial testing of the red blood cells I discovered them to be Jsª(a+), so out came my collection of frozen samples that I then proceeded to test against the serum. And lo and behold, I had some negative results. We had long suspected that we had Jsª homozygotes among our tested population, because all children from some matings were Jsª(a+). In great excitement I ran upstairs to tell Dr. Greenwalt that I thought we had anti-Jsª(b), only to be met with a flat "I don't believe you!" It did not take long once he had inspected my results (after I had repeated them, of course!) for him to be as excited as was I. Serendipity in research is wonderful and occurs surprisingly often. It seems that although we think we know where we are going when we begin any given project, it is only when the results totally surprise us that we have found something truly interesting.
Those were the “good old days” for me, and although I have had a very satisfying career, the excitement of those early years has never been repeated.

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COMMUNICATIONS (CONT’D)

Letters From the Editors

1998 Review

We thank the authors of the 29 outstanding articles published in 1998. The 1998 index, published in this issue, gives you an overview of the scope of the material published in these articles and lists those authors.

We thank our editorial board whose names are listed in the front of each issue. The board members continue to offer important suggestions for improving the journal and support for our efforts. Board members also serve as peer reviewers, as requested.

We also thank the following individuals who assisted in reviewing and selecting papers for publication.

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The quality of the journal is directly related to the quality of the papers and the reviews. Please accept our sincere gratitude and admiration.

1999 Preview

In January 1999 the price for new and renewed subscriptions for Immunohematology will increase by $5: United States subscriptions will increase to $30 and subscriptions outside of the United States will increase to $35. The price for the Immunohematology Methods and Procedures manual will increase to $70 for the United States and to $85 for outside of the United States. Student rates for the manual will remain at $60. These are the first increases since January 1995. We hope you will continue to find the journal an asset to your profession.

The March issue (Vol. 15, No. 1, 1999) will be devoted to the information given by speakers at the May 1998 Symposium to honor the career of Dr. Peter Issitt. The six speakers have written their presentations in a format for publication and a dedication will be included from the coordinators, Dr. George Garratty and Delores Mallory. This will be a memorable issue.

We are now looking for articles for publication in 1999. Many of you have studies that you have completed but haven’t written up. Please write the article and submit it for consideration to publish in Immunohematology. If you wait too long, someone else will publish and you will miss your chance!

Many of you have commented that you enjoy the “Those Were the Days” letters. We need more and we know that there are many interesting stories out there. How about the time you dropped the bottle of blood on the floor with disastrous results? Those of us around when glass bottles were used have all done that, but those who never saw a glass bottle would love to hear about it. What about the first time you did counter elec-