

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
PASADENA

DIVISION OF BIOLOGY
KERCKHOFF LABORATORIES OF BIOLOGY

Sept. 29, 1952

Dr. J. Lederberg
Genetics Department
University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Josh,

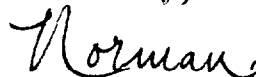
I don't think I will try to answer each of your arguments in detail. I just don't agree with your philosophy in this matter insofar as I can understand it. There is really no good reason for inviting confusion when it would be easy, by the choice of another word, to avoid it. Your use of transducer and prototrophic seems to me to be a violation of this principle.

Incidentally, prototrophic, in its dictionary sense, is not synonymous with autotrophic, since it specifically designates the ability to use the elements. We have recently found that Neurospora can utilize elementary sulfur as a sole source of sulfur (except for the S atom of biotin, of course). Not all mutants share this property. It would no doubt be a great convenience in discussions to be able to refer to the S-users as prototrophs (Webster), except for the fact that some readers might ~~confuse~~ think we meant prototrophs (Ryan & L.).

I am enclosing a copy of a note I am sending to Evelyn Witkin. Possibly you will want to reply to it.

Say hello to Esther for me.

Yours truly,



N. H. Horowitz