

Department of Bacteriology,
University of California,
Berkeley 4, California.

July 12, 1950.

Professor L. C. Dunn,
Department of Zoology,
Columbia University,
New York 27, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Dunn:

I have just had an opportunity to glance at a copy of the new edition of Principles of Genetics, by Sinnott, Dunn and Dobzhensky. Naturally, I was pleased to observe the considerable emphasis given to recent research on microorganisms.

There was one point of reference, however, which I believe should be corrected in any future editions. At two or three places in the text, an oblique reference is made to the work of Lederberg bearing on the occurrence of genetic recombination in bacteria. In all fairness, the citation should be to Tatum and Lederberg, on the basis both of Tatum's direction of and participation in this research, and of publication priority (viz. Lederberg and Tatum, 1946, Cold Spring Harbor Symposium, III, ...; Tatum and Lederberg, 1947, Jour. Bacteriology, 53:673-684).

This is, perhaps, a very minute point but textbook references are often autocatalytic, and it would be unfortunate if any impression were reinforced which served to minimize Tatum's contributions in this field.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg,
Associate Professor of Genetics