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INDIANA UNIVERSITY

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

January 4, 1951

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Dear Johsua:

I was really disappointed in your letter of December 22 because I looked forward to the possibility of a joint volume with you. However, I know what you mean by being left exhausted from writing. Your comment on not yet having a research organization that can roll along without your constant attention amuses me just a little bit. I wonder whether that is ever achieved by anyone. I have had a research group working together for quite a while, but I still find that it takes constant attention every day and most of every day to keep things running smoothly. If you ever discover the secret for getting it to roll under its own momentum, please pass it along to me, for here is one man who would welcome that information tremendously.

Your suggestions about the volume are much appreciated and I shall certainly take them into consideration. I shall also undoubtedly avail myself of your kind offer to look over the material on bacteria if and when I get it written. This will be a wonderful help to me, I am sure. Your decision to withhold writing a book on genetic bacteriology for about ten years is undoubtedly a wise one and has much to recommend it. On the other hand, while I have shared this view about the genetics of microorganisms in general, I still feel that a start has to be made even though it is a very imperfect start and one which will be out of date very quickly, for there is so much interest in the field and so much clamoring for an organized presentation of material that I believe this need should be satisfied even though it is a tentative and imperfect effort. I only hope that I will see the thing through.

Thank you also for your kind and standing invitation to visit Madison. I hope to be able to avail myself of it before very long. With best greetings of the season to you and your good wife,

Cordially yours,



T. M. Sonneborn

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