

THE WALTER AND ELIZA HALL INSTITUTE  
OF  
MEDICAL RESEARCH

DIRECTOR  
PROF F. M. BURNET F.R.S.

THE ROYAL MELBOURNE HOSPITAL,  
PARKVILLE, N.2.

31st January, 1951.

Professor J. Lederberg,  
Department of Genetics,  
University of Wisconsin,  
MADISON 6, WIS. U.S.A.

Dear Professor Lederberg,

I am sending herewith our second last reprint of the lysogenicity paper and I have written to the Editor of the Journal for his permission to republish. I think I can guarantee that there will be no objection but as soon as his answer is received I shall let you know.

I have got back on to the flu virus recombination problem and find the basic phenomenon easy to repeat i.e. to obtain fully neurotropic strains of MEL serological character from neuro WS- MEL infections. The formal proof that these are recombinants may turn out to be harder to obtain than it seemed last year. My colleague Cairns finds unmistakeable evidence that the non-neurotropes like MEL do multiply to a detectable extent in the mouse brain and then disappear as a result of a highly complex mixture of interference and immunological effects. The hypothesis that MEL is throwing a high proportion of neurotropic mutants which cannot be detected by ordinary methods is at least a theoretical possibility. My main job at present is to try to exclude that possibility.

There is a chance that I shall be in the United States for a short period in January - February 1952 and there may be an opportunity then to call at Wisconsin.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



(F. M. Burnet)  
DIRECTOR.

Enc.