

11th March, 1952.

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

Dear Dr. Lederberg,

Thank you very much for your letter and also for the copy of Papers in Microbial Genetics. I found both of great interest.

I am back at work again on the influenza virus recombination story. The results in the mouse brain standard experiment are quite reproducible but I find it difficult to derive anything like a proper genetic approach to the problem. The gist of the situation is that one arranges conditions so that one possible recombinant will eventually emerge after running the gauntlet of a highly selective environment designed to inhibit the reappearance of either parent strain. I cannot see any hopeful way of obtaining anything equivalent to the whole progeny arising from a mixedly infected cell. I shall keep on with a variety of experiments in the hope that an approach will turn up.

I am still hoping that one day or another I shall find an opportunity of spending some time at Wisconsin.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



(F. M. Burnet)
DIRECTOR