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November 9th 1931

Dear Miss Stephenson,

I am very glad to welcome you back from what must have been a highly profitable and interesting journey to the U.S.A.

I am glad to hear about Dr. Tarr. Perhaps he comes as some sort of atonement from Professor Murray there. I think it a very good idea that he should work at types of streptococci. Dr. Colebrook, directing the research laboratories of the new Queen Charlotte's Hospital for puerperal fever, particularly wants more biochemical work done. He and Dr. F. Griffith of the Ministry of Health Laboratory will, I am sure, provide strains. I advise Dr. Tarr to come and have a talk to Dr. Colebrook and make a firm linkage with his new laboratory. I also advise him to see Bruce White, among others, at the National Institute. Bruce White has done some very bright work lately upon rough and smooth forms in the Salmonella group, and this might give Dr. Tarr some possible side-lights.

I will gladly arrange both visits if I know when Dr. Tarr can come.

I shall look forward to seeing you soon at Cambridge and to hearing more about your visit. The impression made upon you about all this significant work in bacterial chemistry in U.S.A. is what I had expected. It is the sort of activity and progress some of us fondly hoped ten and more years ago might be made in England, and not least at Cambridge. But our bacteriologists were not ready for it then, and the biochemists in various ways got segregated. We might have taken the lead, but now we must try to catch up after a slow start. It saddens me to think that there is no work at all of this kind even beginning in either of the two great palaces for bacteriology in Cambridge and Oxford. Let us hope that this will rapidly change. Your own work, and what has been associated with it, is among the really bright spots that relieve the gloom elsewhere.

With every good wish,
Believe me,
Yours sincerely,

[Sir Walter Fletcher]