

January 12, 1949.

*Just Beth*

Dr. A. D. Dulaney,  
Department of Bacteriology,  
University of Tennessee,  
Nashville, Tenn.

*Memphis*  
Dear Dr. Dulaney,

In the course of our studies on the genetic control of lactose fermentation, it has become increasingly desirable to confirm the findings which were reported by Drs. Deere, Michelson and yourself about 10 years ago in the Journal of Bacteriology. In the lactose negative and mutabile coli strains at our disposal we have not been able to find evidence for a non-adaptive lactase which can be demonstrated after "activation" of the cells.

Since this discrepancy, in all likelihood, may be due to strain differences, it would be very important to conduct these experiments on the same mutabile strain which you used in these earlier studies. I would be very grateful if you could make a culture of this strain available to me. I am addressing this letter to you rather than Dr. Deere as I have been unable to find any clue to his whereabouts. In addition, if they should still be available, reprints of the papers on the lactase of *E. coli* mutabile would be very useful.

With my sincere thanks,

Yours,

Joshua Lederberg,  
Assistant Professor of Genetics