

January 13, 1954

Dear Mr. Day:

I am pleased to reply to yours of the 9th. I would like to help you in any way that I can. However, I think that your application might be misaddressed to me. The field of your interest would appear to coincide very closely with the very important work being led at this campus by Professor G. W. Keitt, in the Department of Plant Pathology. I have had the pleasure of consulting with him on numerous occasions in the past, and would be happy to continue such an arrangement if you should find it possible to work with him. Professor Keitt's closest concerns now are in the Genetics of *Venturia inaequalis*, but it happens there is also some work going on with *Cladosporium*. Unfortunately, I do not have sufficient assurance of space in my own laboratory for next year that I can afford to make any additional commitments at the instant. But let me reiterate that while an association with the Plant Pathology department would be more pertinent to your immediate interests, you would be welcome to join our seminars, courses, discussions, etc. We are just across the street from Prof. Keitt. The work in our own laboratory is centered almost entirely on bacteria at the present time.

You briefly mentioned something about smuts. Do you know David Perkins ((Stanford University) work on *Ustilago maydis*? (Genetics 34: 607, 1949). We had once thought of some work on these lines ourselves, but went to other things when I learned that Dave was going after it. If this is a primary interest, you might want to communicate with Dr. Perkins at the Stanford Biology Department. I passing I might also mention that Dr. Paul Allen (on leave from our Botany Department) is presently at the Molteno Institute, and you might be interested to learn something of his physiological studies on sporidial *Ustilago*.

May I recommend then that you pursue your application with Professor Keitt, outlining your particular interests in some detail, stating when and for how long you would be available, and so forth. It would be appropriate for you to have two or three letters of reference forwarded to him (or me) as well, and I know that Prof. Keitt will be interested to hear of your thesis studies in some detail. (I had just seen your remarks in the "MGB"). Since we have to settle our plans for next year before very long, expedition would be prudent.

Please convey my respects to Dr. Lewis,

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg