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2/1/49

Dear Josh:

I've just finished reading your review in "Heredity" and feel moved to congratulate you upon a terrific job well done. I casually asked Beadle what he thought of it and he said he thought it was prodigious. I think this point of view will be shared by all who read it... Now that I've buttered you up, may I ask for a reprint?

You may remember that I said I'd try to arrange to have you out here as a guest lecturer some time. You may have come to think that this was an idle promise, but I assure you, this is actually in the works. I think you will be approached to come out here sometime next fall, if you can possibly manage it. I hope that when you do you will give us the honor of staying with us. I think I can say that there will be a tremendous amount of interest in what you have to say.

As you may have noticed from the Jan. 1949 PNAS, we are now working on some riboflavin-sensitized photo-reactions which we believe are of great importance in the normal physiology of the plant. Among the substrates for this photoreaction are indoleacetic acid, tryptophane,

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histidine, tyrosine and methionine. Furthermore, we have found that various proteins (3 enzymes tried at random, + immune proteins) are readily photoinactivated when suspended in riboflavin. Still more interesting is the fact that we have found (working in Delbrück's lab) that bacteriophage T6R may be rapidly photoinactivated, though with different kinetics to the reaction. It struck me that since our system can affect nucleoproteins, should it not be mutagenic. I have mentioned this idea to several people, some of whom scoff at it, + others of whom are actually doing some experiments. I thought I'd pass the word on to you -- + if you want to test the system for mutagenicity, using your bugs, I'd be most happy to have you do it. If you need any more details, write me.

As you probably have heard, we have another child, now 4 mos. old. Sex ♀, name Beth. We're quite happy over this completion (we hope) of the family circle according to plan. Dale is now feeling so peppy that she is taking a

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job as a nursery-school teacher 2 mornings a week.

We have just contracted for a fine apartment just 5 minute walk from the institute. I am quite happy over this, since it ought to facilitate much my work, as well as being more pleasant in general.

As far as Neurospora here is concerned, it seems to be pretty completely biochemical, except for some Houlahan work (soon to be published) on linkage maps. Horowitz is also fussing a little with the possibility of using naked nuclei in some crosses.

Well - that's all the gossip for now — I hope we meet again soon.

Sincerely -

Art

Best regards to
Esther