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November 8, 1949.

Dr. Norman Kretchmer,  
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335 Henry Street,  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Norm-

I am sorry not to have answered your letter sooner, but was out of town.

Are you teaching bacteriology now? I am not entirely sure what would be suitable for your demonstration. Under separate cover, I am sending a few cultures which may illustrate what you are trying to put over.

They include:

- K-12 Original, wild-type, prototrophic E. coli
- Y-87 requires biotin, methionine. Is also lactose-negative mutabile, i.e., exhibits reversions to lactose-positive as papillae, on EMB lactose medium
- W-677 requires threonine, leucine, thiamine. Also carries mutations affecting fermentation of lactose, maltose, galactose, xylose, and mannitol.
- W-794 requires histidine.

If you want to amuse yourself, try crossing Y-87 with W-677. Even better would be a lactose-positive reversion from Y-87 with W-677, which would allow you to observe the recombination of the 5 fermentative differences.

Techniques and reprints under separate cover,

Sincerely,