

July 8, 1948.

Dr. Gerald G. Wooley,
Exp. Biol. Med. Institute,
National Institute of Health,
Bethesda 14, Maryland.

Dear Dr. Wooley:

Thank you for your comments on desoxy-pyridoxine. They confirm my a priori hopes that it may be possible to disinfect lysogenic bacteria with its help. I had in mind that a) the phage is undoubtedly transmitted intracellularly (although it may be released perhaps as a result of lysis) and b) that it might be possible to set up a situation where the bacteria multiplied more rapidly than the phage did, more or less analogously to kappa in *Paramecium*. Under these circumstances, some of the bacteria might lose their phage. If you would predict a different course of events when the lysogenic bacteria are grown in synthetic media with desoxy-pyridoxine, please let me know. Conversely, the lysogenic organism may well provide a superior means of testing the efficacy of antiviral agents, and I will certainly let you know how this works out.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg,
Assistant Professor of Genetics,