MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉDUCATION NATIONALE

CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE

LABORATOIRE DE GÉNÉTIQUE PHYSIOLOGIQUE

GIF-SUR-YVETTE (SEINE-ET-OISE)

TÉL. : 136 A GIF

SAGER

March 12, 1958

Dear Josh -

It is only quite recently that I discovered that you & I have in common a certain interest; to wit, the teaching of genetics to medical students. I had intended to write you a bit about my activities before I left for Paris but didn't get a chance. This is being written with one eye on the Seine which is gleaming in the sun - as seen from my hotel window. By now you probably have heard that the Gif Conference was very successful - & delightful. The motto might be taken as: Viva la cytoplasme but watch out for tricky phenotypes! In other words, all the classical difficulties of inferring genetic constitution from phenotypes, apply also to the cytoplasm - & very more stringently in the absence of a basis for cytological correlation. I think the study of cytoplasmic heredity is about in the position of Mendelian heredity in 1905; but in our case the cytogenetic correlations will probably only have meaning on a molecular level - & neither the things, tools nor the conceptual formulation seem quite ready yet. I am encouraged however by the growing interest in the field; that's the first requisite; I think the others will follow.

Genetics: - as you may know, I was asked to give a series of lectures on basic principals of genetics at NYU Med. College. So far I have given 7 of 12 - 2 hr. lectures. They seem to be going well & are being tape recorded. If I still like them in black on white, I shall seriously

consider publishing them as I have been strongly urged to do. When I get back to my (next week) I'll send you a copy of the outline. In this letter I'll just indicate the approach ...
My purpose was two fold: to present the basic facts of genetics (present day genetics that is) in a logical rather than chronological way; and to substantiate each point by detailed consideration of particular exemplary experiments. The approach was not didactic; no attempt at exhaustive coverage; but a concerted stress on experimental method & problems of warranted inference.

I do feel strongly that this approach has many advantages over a more classical one, espec. for MDs & prospective MDs. Will be glad to write you details if you're interested & I'll send you an outline as soon as I get home.

Best regards to you & Esther.

As ever

Ruth