Imperial College of Agriculture
St. Augustine

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Jan. 12/52

Dear Jack –

As you fear, I have lost contact with the problem of symbiosis during recent years. Hence, though I have no objection to being quoted, my opinions don't carry much weight.

My attitude has always been that the benefits derived by host and symbiont from the relationship are so great that there are probably different ways in which the morphological connection was established. In other words, a derivation of the mycetome from the gut is perhaps not the only one extant. Certainly the Pseudococcus type of mycetome can be gotten into the Steinhaus scheme only by the most far fetched reasoning.

I have a faint recollection that Walczuch published some cogitations on the matter in her big paper (Sally gives the reference in her coccid review). Doesn't Buchner say anything about it in his large book on symbiosis? Incidentally, he is now getting

out another edition of it in Italy (whence he fled when he found himself in difficulties with the Nazis during the a just before the war).

Yes, you are quite right about the possible importance of hereditary symbionts to geneticists. I always used to dwell on that aspect when I gave talks about the Pseudococcus symbiosis, but I fear that I was considered a bit cracked. I hope I won't hurt your feelings when I say that during the last 20 years most geneticists have become amazingly conservative (and indeed, those with microbiological interests form a notable exception). They seem to dread that something will disturb the nice theoretical setup that underlies all present work. Indeed the recent attempt by the Genetic Soc. to excommunicate Russia was perhaps part of that attitude.

Sally and I are spending a month or two in this place, which will explain the delay in my answer.

The best to you & your wife

Yours

Franz Schrader