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August 19, 1960

*request*

John H. Talbott, M.D.  
Editor, The Journal of the  
American Medical Association  
535 North Dearborn Street  
Chicago 10, Illinois

Dear Doctor Talbott:

I have been thinking about your letter of June 29th but must apologize for not having acknowledged it sooner.

I certainly agree with you about the importance of bringing recent progress in genetics to the attention of the medical profession. What I am less certain of is the best means of doing this. It is hard to know what one could effectively accomplish by a few brief articles. However, there have been some efforts along these lines already, for example, in *Scope* though I suspect they may serve better to elicit interest than to inform.

We are just getting our own new teaching program underway and this would not be a propitious time for me to accept a commitment to do more writing in this field. In any case, I suspect that there may be some others who are rather closer to the problems of applied genetics in which your professional readers would be most immediately interested -- for example, Arno Motulsky at Seattle, Jim Neel at Ann Arbor and James Crow at Madison. However, I am really not trying to shuck off the problem altogether and I will be thinking about it during the next several months. If I can furnish any more constructive suggestions, I will hasten to do so.

Thank you for calling on me.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

JL/jh

John H. Talbott