August 26,1941

Dean H. E. Hawkes
Columbia College
Columbia University
New York, New York

My dear Dean Hawkes:

I am glad of the opportunity to write you with reference to JOSHUA S. LEDERBERG who has made application to the Committee on Scholarships for financial assistance.

I have known Mr. Lederberg for the past year and can say without hesitation that he is a young man of excellent character, and a conscientious and industrious worker.

He is an excellent scholar, shows marked ability and aptitude for scientific research and study. He has been engaged during the past year in Biological Research and has shown promising results at all times. He is capable of assuming responsibilities and seeing a job through. He goes into his scientific investigations rather thoroughly, exploring most of the possibilities that existsto bring success to his task.

I know that he has had his heart set on attending Columbia University,and I know that he cannot possibly do so without financial assistance.

I can unhesitatingly recommend JOSHUA LEDERBERG as a serious-minded individual with an excellent background and with excellent future possibilities. I feel certain he is just the type of individual that your Committee on Scholarships would like to help and I know it will be well appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Henry Platt, DIRECTOR
Science Laboratory
American Institute of the City of New York