

Dec. 14, 1925.

Dear Robert,

Dr. Lewis gave the Harvey lecture on Saturday night. He started by saying that he understood that they wanted his own work so that he would not discuss the work of others but simply give his own. They have given some general remarks that were very good, in the nature of not having formulated any very definite theories but rather used theories just as a means to an end. They he gave a very long series of pretty diagrammatic cells from tissue cultures of connective tissue cells and then referred to the studies of Mrs. Lewis with the blood. In these he showed both the clasmatocytes and the epithelioid cells. Then there came a series of old cultures of connective tissue in which he showed cells that we thought applied to the monocyte strain more because that showed a marked arrangement of stainable substances around the centrosome.

Then he came to his discussion which was that he did not agree with Maximow in deriving things from lymphocytes but thought that it was natural that Maximow should come to the same conclusions from cultures as from fixed tissues since he studied the cultures only fixed. Then he said that he had come to the same conclusions as Mallory and his school except that he was not sure that any of the cells came from endothelium. That certainly was a good one to agree with Mallory except in his major point

The climax of the lecture was an attack on us. He said that he and Mrs. Lewis had restudied the early chicks and had come to the conclusion that there was no evidence that the red cells come from endothelium. I saw him later about that and he said that they thought that cells from the primitive streak simply lodged on the walls of vessels and divided there for a while and that made reds. Then he said that we had said that clasmatocytes did not have mitochondria nor a centrosome. That really took my breath away. I find that I said in the Clasmatocyte-monocyte paper that the large highly stimulated ones we had not seen the mitochondria in. He said that if one stained with Janus green alone they were always there which may be true. I am quite sure that I have never said that cells had no centrosome, but rather that the clasmatocytes did not have the permanent arrangement of substances around the centrosome. I thought that those two statements were a real misrepresentation of our position. Then he said that they had become convinced of the identity of clasmatocytes and monocytes.

Carrel is also wholly convinced that the two strains are identical. That is as I wrote earlier in the Fall the crux of the matter, the place where the attack is to be made. Of course the whole Mallory school believe that they are one also Maximow so we are quite alone. Well we may be wrong but I still think that we are right. Of course they all go back to the connective tissues, and I think that tissue cultures may carry cells back to very primitive forms, in fact I think that what Carrel gets is de-differentiation, but I think that in adult tissues those two strains represent slightly different normal functions and markedly different functions in disease. Then I think that the two types of giant cells so markedly different are some evidence that there were two different types from which they sprang.

I enclose the check for the hundred reprints. Let me know if you think we should pay for more.