

April 30, 1950.

Miss Elise Cahn,
c/o Dr. B. D. Davis,
411 E. 69 Street,
New York 21, N.Y.

Dear Miss Cahn:

Professor Crow and I have given very thorough consideration to your application for an assistantship here next year. We have agreed on the following recommendation to you.

Largely on the basis of Dr. Davis' recommendation, we scraped the barrel to try to find some satisfactory place for you here, as an emergency or stopgap measure. We thought that this might be better than for you to have to seek a temporary job elsewhere, which you might plan to interrupt next year in order to initiate your graduate studies. I have already mentioned some of the qualifications which might have to be attached to such a stopgap appointment. During the past few weeks, it has turned out that the vacancy which we had particularly in mind for you has not materialized, although another position is still open. It is uncertain whether there would be any very suitable research facilities available for you during your first year, and in any event you would be very much occupied with teaching duties and might have very little time for research. Then, although very likely, it is not certain that more space will become available in '51-52 for you to carry on with on bacterial genetic problems. In sum, we feel that with the evaporation of the emergency, you would probably be much better off to defer your application here until next year, both financially, and from the point of view of your academic career. Your experience in Dr. Davis' laboratory cannot help but stand you in good stead later on, particularly if you keep your eyes open for problems that you might like to pursue.

This letter does not necessarily close the issue. If you decide, for reasons you may know best, that you would prefer to begin graduate school in September, we can find something for you. In that event, you should file your application for admission to the Graduate School, and let us know that you would like to spend the next year here. The conditions mentioned in my letters still apply, but Dr. Crow and I will, of course, help you in any way possible in the light of your record. I must urge, however, that you give this very thorough consideration, and perhaps that you discuss it with Dr. Davis, who will - I am sure, from his letter - have only your best interests in mind.