

June 22, 1949.

Mr. Frank H. Dickey,
Dept. Chemistry,
California Institute of Technology,
Pasadena, California.

Dear Mr. Dickey,

I have just read your paper "The preparation of specific adsorbents", which appeared recently in the PNAS, with intense interest, because we have been working on bacterial enzymatic adaptation, for which you have presented an obvious parallel. Before attempting to apply your findings to our specific problems, I am very anxious to repeat the experiments which you published.

The procedure, as published, is rather sketchy, and I would greatly appreciate any remarks that you might be willing to write, especially as concerns the technique and extent of drying the gels. Could you also mention something of the time required to carry out the various steps, especially the equilibration of the adsorbent with the dye, and the wavelengths which you found to be most suitable for measuring adsorption, and for correcting for turbidity. It would also be helpful to have some a priori idea of the reproducibility of the adsorptive capacities of the control and specific gels.

Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg,
Assistant Professor of Genetics.