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August 30, 1956.

Dr. Joshua Lederberg,
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Madison 6, Wisconsin.

Dear Josh:

Thank you for your comments on Crampton's book. We never will be able to hold to our standards unless people like you speak frankly to us (incidentally, I've tried to make it a rule when any of you whose opinions we especially value have patted us on the back to tell you that we would make mistakes, but that I could assure you that the mistakes would not come from any lowering of our standards--they'd just result from human imperfections).

First, the mistakes in the proofreading resulted from a combination of circumstances that were only partly our fault. The man who handled this work is not only less able than our best, but he was also on his way to a serious illness (he is now in the hospital). In addition, the situation today in book manufacturing is one of chaotic madness; the depression of the 30's put out of business a great many book manufacturing plants, none of which has been replaced, and today the growing population in the country is consuming books at an unprecedented rate, with the ten to fifteen book manufacturers remaining having to supply the great demand; any publisher today is fortunate to get a book manufactured, and the more complicated its content, the more he may expect typographical aberrations such as the margin on page 252 of Crampton. However, your specific comments will help Stanley Schaefer to see that the reprint of Crampton's book is better in these respects.

As to your criticisms of some of the scientific content--that is another story. With your comments in hand it will now be apparent to Harvey McCaleb and to me that we should have had a criticism of the manuscript by a biochemist (I suspect that Harvey and I thought that the critics we had from several better schools of agriculture would assure the manuscript's soundness in its basic science).

The fact remains that the book is a great step forward in agricultural education; to reassure yourself on this point you need only when next going through the library stacks look at Morrison's FEEDS AND FEEDING, that imperishable best seller that has fed several generations of animal husbandry students on 1200 pages of facts with no reference to the basic science that underlies nutritional needs. Early reactions to the Crampton from schools

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of agriculture indicate that the book may well help improve education in animal husbandry. Harvey McCaleb and I--with Stanley Schaefer's help--will see that subsequent editions of the book not only help agricultural education but also satisfy your critical if sympathetic sense.

As to the GENETICS AND CHEMOTHERAPY, I have just returned from a vacation, and I am off in a couple of days for a geological convention in Mexico. Thus I have not read your reprint from the American Scientist. Let me write you of this later on. But meanwhile, I'd like to ask whether you think there is anything I could do to stir Dr. Cavalli, or encourage him and you to push work on the book. I shall be glad for any suggestions.

Please remember me to your wife. I am hoping to have a visit with you this coming fall, but if I do not then get to Madison, I will come Spring.

With best regards.

Sincerely,

Bill

W.H. Freeman

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