

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS  
COLD SPRING HARBOR, LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

4 August, 1949

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Joshua,

Sorry your letter went so long unanswered. I have been rather swamped since I came back to work a couple of months ago, and anyhow, I've always been a fiasco as a correspondent.

Being a mama is lots of fun -- our little Joey grows and grows, and brings us lots of joy of a brand new type. I must confess I had some anxiety at first about being a part time mother, but so far at least it has been working out wonderfully well. No signs of neglect yet either in Joey or the little bacteria. Hope you'll come see us when you visit N. Y.

As to the microbial genetics course, I don't think my outline would be of any help, as the scope and purpose of my course <sup>was</sup> ~~was~~ very different from the one you have in mind. My course was directed primarily at those interested in genetics, and it dealt with aspects of the gene problem as approached through microorganisms. Also, it was a graduate course, with prerequisites of both genetics and bacteriology, and was given on a rather advanced level. All this in addition to the fact that my outline is very general makes me think it isn't worth sending on.

I've been extremely interested, naturally, in your heterozygotes -- is anything new? I've been hard at work on the peculiar action of nucleic acid (yeast ribose) on the frequency of phage-resistant mutants in B/r. It is almost established now that the effect is a matter of conversion of delayed mutations (either spontaneous or u.v.-induced) into zero points -- in other words, nucleate takes the place of division in bringing out phenotypic expression of delayed mutants. How? I don't know yet, but it may possibly be a segregation phenomenon, which makes me wonder if high concentrations of sodium nucleate might affect your recombinants. Have you ever tried this?

Best regards to Esther, and you'll hear from me soon on the question of the M. G. Bulletin.

Sincerely,

*Evelyn*