

September 20<sup>th</sup> 1954

Dr. Werner Braun  
MB Division, CmlC Biol. Labs.  
Camp Detrick, Frederick, Md.

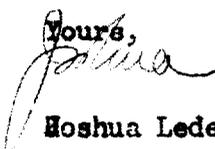
Dear Werner:

I have had a long letter from a Dr. R. Devignat in the Belgian Congo describing some experiments on *Pasteurella pestis*, where he thinks he has some evidence of recombination. I am not able to judge this myself, as he gives insufficient details and I am unfamiliar with the organism. However, he appears quite eager to get his material in the hands of someone with some familiarity with bacterial genetics in order to confirm his findings. He admits that his own lab. facilities are so rudimentary as to make his work rather difficult. The markers he quotes are primarily ~~for~~ biochemical (glycerol fermentation; nitrate formation) but also pathogenicity. I have to tell him, of course, that I cannot cope with this myself, but ~~that~~ ~~the~~ thought that you should ~~be~~ be apprised of this at least for general information. If there is any possibility of your (or an associate) taking up this question, I will be glad to lend what good offices I can to help the contact.

I have not mentioned your name (or ~~an~~ installation) to him, and will do so in this connection only with explicit permission.

The Cavalli's arrived here a few days ago— we are enjoying their visit (which will be till early December) immensely.

Yours,

  
Joshua Lederberg