

P.S. Thank you very much indeed for your and Esther's beautiful photograph. It was a kind thought indeed. I shall try to get one of myself to let you have an advanced sample of myself before we actually meet; I have none available at the moment. - Cultures not yet sent, I am afraid! Stayed on my desk for a week and were discarded being too old.

probably better to exclude, from our joint paper, the ~~part~~ last part of my Parisian paper concerning mechanisms of resistance.

I was greatly interested about your news on selection for F- through motility, SM-"killing" (I strongly agree about hyphens), and Hfr. I have nothing interesting to report. I have concentrated mostly on F+ transduction. Casein hydrolysate (which aminoacids?) is enough for transduction to occur; apparently, F+ cells need not multiply to yield F+, while ~~xxxxxx~~ F- cells are more infectable when in stages of activity; but these conclusions are still tentative. I am, though with little enthusiasm, making kinetical calculations; it would seem that brownian motion might be enough to explain F+ transduction by collisions. But I feel rather uncertain about using classical formulae for brownian motion of bacteria. I should be interested to know Nelson's approach to the problem, which he has only sketched ^{at the end} of his Genetics paper. All this is preliminary to an experiment, to test whether F+ behaves as a temperate phage or not, i.e. whether it is produced in bursts: using microdrops containing one F+ cell and many F- cells, and testing the distribution of transductions among microdrops.

Hayes: I have not yet answered any of his letters ^{Hfr} since December, and think it unnecessary to send him Hfr, since his ^{Hfr} works well, and he could ^{now} get what he wanted, i.e. an Sm-sensitive Hfr (by recombination! ; 5-10% recombinants stated to be Hfr by him) to test the Sm effect on it (which he has found). From his data, it seems that his Hfr[†] behaves differently from mine, though only in segregation of Hfr. I hope you will meet him at CSH; he is a very pleasant person, and even if he has somehow messed up the situation by unnecessary hypotheses, I envy him his uninhibited approach to the problems. I find my Mendelian background more often hinders me than helps me in bacterial genetics, though it is clear that it is me and not Mendel who is to blame for this reason. - I have meanwhile answered negatively another request of Hfr; copy enclosed for your information.

Calef: he should know a good deal of bacterial genetics techniques by next autumn, but I doubt that his English will be tolerable by that date. Buzzati thinks there would be no harm in Calef waiting another year before going to America, and I think it best if Calef withdraws, for the time being, his application, which will probably come again in question next year. If however, he will still be interested in bacterial genetics, as likely, no doubt he should try to spend a time in your lab.

Heredity reprints received. Thank you very much. I hope JGM ones will be soon available. I strongly hope to see you next summer, unless there is a better chance to see you in more profitable conditions. You would always be welcome to this laboratory, and we have no serious room difficulties. Yours

Luca

* a thing which I must be in kind enough to
pardon me.

† Hfr₂?