

ROTHAMSTED EXPERIMENTAL STATION

(LAWES AGRICULTURAL TRUST)

Director: SIR WILLIAM G. OGG.

Head of Biochemistry Department:
N. W. PIRIE

HARPENDEN
HERTS.

PLEASE ADDRESS YOUR REPLY
TO THE WRITER BY NAME.

12th April 1959

Dear Lederberg,

I seem to remember that somewhere you commented briefly on some experiments that you thought were on a bacterial virus but that you soon found were in fact on -OH ions. These simulated in many ways a virus infection and you commented on the difficulty of framing a definition of "virus" that could be relied on to exclude such an effect automatically. I cannot now find the passage.

Can you remember where this appeared ?
Alternatively, if my memory is playing false and the comment was not made by you, do you remember who it was by.

Please do not go to any trouble over this - I only want to use the point as an analogy. But if you can remember the reference I would be grateful. Probably it is in one of the reprints you so kindly send me but, if so, someone must have "borrowed" it.

Yours sincerely

N. W. Pirie