1 April 1952

Microbiology
New York University
477 1st Avenue
New York NY

Dear Josh,

How are things going with you, & Esther? I am back at work on the pneumo. transformation set-up, after an intermission by an attack of the flu, or something of the kind, followed by a trip to Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal: the latter was pleasant. I spent most of my time visiting various laboratories & saw quite a lot of amusing things, nothing in the bact. genetics line except for one man at McGill who used to work with Newcombe, & who finds that the protective action of cysteine etc ~~against~~ from killing action of U.V. on coli ~~is entirely athari~~ can be entirely explained by the UV adsorbtion of the cysteine.

Are your plans for the summer (so far as they affect my movements) any more definite? I have left your last letter down at the lab., but I think the arrangement was that you would write & let me know how things stood about the feasibility of my coming to Madison for a bit. I expect to leave New York

~~and to~~ on the 20th of this month, top to Dallas, Texas, with the Wagers, and then to go across to ~~Cap~~ California to Cal. Tech. etc. and then come on to Wisconsin, visiting places of interest en route, which would bring me to Madison ~~about the~~ towards the end of May, if that fits in with your plans. If because of your own ~~[illegible]~~ plans for the summer, or any other reason, the scheme for ~~of~~ my spending some months at Wisconsin with you does not seem to be practical, please let me know, and I will re-arrange my plans, and come for a shorter visit at some time in the summer that is convenient.

My pneumo. work is coming along, slowly. Kinetic ~~opts~~ using DNA-ase to stop uptake of DNA, seem to indicate a significantly sigmoid curve which I take to indicate two successive rate-limiting steps which I think may be adsorption & "penetration" of DNA, I hoped to demonstrate adsorption of DNA at 0°C, but at present it seems that there is no adsorption, or very little, in the cold, so I still have not been able to dissociate the steps. It is difficult to get reproducible results from day to day, I think because the "sensitivity" i.e. number of ~~transformed~~ cells ~~pro~~ transformed by exposing a standard population to a sub-maximal concentration of DNA for a standard time, varies very rapidly

as the length of preliminary incubation in presence of anti K serum & the (i.e. "sensitisation") is increased, sensitivity ~~altering~~ decreasing by more than $\times \frac{1}{30}$ if the test is made ½ hour ~~before~~ before or ½ hour after the time of peak sensitivity. I have not even a plausible hypothesis as to what determines "sensitivity" but I think I will have to ~~determine this~~ discover precise expt. conditions for opt. sensitivity if I am to get any further.

My respects to Esther. I look forward to hearing the latest news on λ when we meet, though I find phage a subject which seems to get more difficult as time goes by.

Yr. Sincerely

Bruce Stocker