

May 22, 1962

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Dear Dr. Takagi:

Please let me thank you and your colleagues for your very friendly hospitality while we were in Japan and visiting Kanazawa.

I have looked up the reference by Kohn and Harris on the selection of a methionine auxotroph that I had mentioned to Dr. Okada as being somewhat parallel to the selection of thymine mutants as he has been doing. They have a purely empirical observation and it appeared in the Journal of Bacteriology 44: 717-718, 1942. As you may recognize, this date was somewhat before the current era of analysis, and their interpretation of their findings cannot be accepted. I have several recollections of having repeated the empirical finding in 1945 and there is no reason to doubt its accuracy. Would you pass this on to Dr. Okada? In view of the analogy between aminopterin and sulphamidoide it might be amusing to inquire whether one would obtain methionine auxotrophs if just methionine is added to the treatment with aminopterin.

Cordially,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

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Takagi, Y.