U-W

Van Niel

HOPKINS MARINE STATION

PACIFIC GROVE, CALIFORNIA

March 25, 1954.

Dear Joshua:

I just noticed the question at the bottom of the mimeographed page dealing with the simple method for isolating individual microbes. I think it is quite delightful, and hope to try it with the summer class, in a few months, although I doubt whether I shall have time to practice it beforehand — which I'd like to do. By all means publish it. But:

In that case I'd suggest that you change the MS. so that the second paragraph tells people to use suspensions containing 10^{+6} to 10^{+7} instead of 10^{-6} to 10^{-7} organisms per ml. I certainly would hate having to search for a drop with a single microbe if the chances are 1 in 10^{13} to 10^{14} of finding it!

The first sentence of the last paragraph I don't quite understand; are the drops first deposited on the coverglass under oil? I suppose this is the intention, but I'm not quite sure.

In great haste; I have loads of work to do!

Very best to Esther and you,

As ever Kees.