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Department of Medical Genetics

May 21, 1957

Mr. Dennis Flanagan
Scientific American
415 Madison Avenue
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Flanagan:

I am enclosing a first draft of a prospective article on L-forms. I am very well aware that it needs polishing, and, as far as I have time during the next few months, would like to do my best. I am sending it to you at this time to obtain your advice as to the level of presentation. ~~If~~ In fact, I have purposely included just a bit more detail than the level I was aiming at.

The first 2 and last paragraphs don't particularly appeal to me; if they irritate you too they will be reworked.

For the figures, I had thought of having 1A (enclosure); 1B (a small colony of ordinary bacteria for comparison; 2: sketches or photographs of the growth of a protoplast by blebs; 3: possibly some of the chemical structures of things like DAP and uridine-diphosphate-amino-sugar. I am least certain about the utility of 3. The final photos will be better than the sample.

To the 'further references' I hope you don't slip in Joshua, vi:20. The readers can figure that out for themselves.

I hope that these preliminaries serve a useful purpose. I have kept a copy; you can use one of the enclosed copies for remarks. It will save time if you don't go too much beyond what I'm asking you to do at this round. As I indicated earlier, I would not wish this article to appear in print in S.A. before the technical article has been published. My guess for that would be about Febr-Apr 1958. What would your time-table for such an article be in that case? If necessary, I can probably give you the final ms. before I leave for Australia in August. If there's still some more time in December, so much the better.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

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