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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

VIRUS LABORATORY

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720

January 29, 1970

Dear Maclyn:

Many thanks for your letter of January 2 and for the information contained therein.

I am enclosing a copy of revisions on page 10 made in consideration of your suggestions regarding the additional work published in 1946. I am also enclosing herewith a portion of a reply I have received from Roy Avery which indicates that he is satisfied with the manuscript but would like to make a suggestion somewhat reluctantly that the word "Great" be added to the title as indicated. There is really no reason why this change should not be made and in view of the source of the suggestion I am rather inclined to include it. What do you think?

Should you attend some of the sessions of the Stern Symposium on Perspectives in Virology at the Barbizon Plaza Hotel next Monday or Tuesday perhaps we will have a chance for a visit since I plan to attend both days of the symposium.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

W. M. Stanley

WMS:wmb
Encs.

Dr. Maclyn McCarty
The Rockefeller University
New York, New York 10021

Although two additional papers on the transforming substance were published in 1946 by McCarty and Avery, one on the effect of DNAase and the other on an improved method for isolation,

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hope we may all be together--God and the war permitting and live out our days in peace."

It would appear that by the time the paper was submitted for publication the following November, Avery, despite the terminology used in the paper, had convinced himself that the work and the conclusion were correct and he was ready to retire, leave the rest to others and to live in peace. The war was still on, making especial demands of the younger men. The interests of his two younger physician associates were changing, for MacLeod had left to accept a position as professor at New York University School of Medicine in 1941 and McCarty had accepted additional obligations by joining the Rockefeller U. S. Naval Medical Research Unit in 1942. Avery had no desire to argue the merits of the discovery before the scientific world at that time, a world that was fully preoccupied with the war. I am sure that he felt the pride of accomplishment within himself and that sooner or later the world would recognize that accomplishment. But the fact remains that no one undertook the task of describing the discovery and arguing its merits and significance before scientific audiences across the nation; hence several years passed before there was general acceptance.

The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, as an organization, seems to have given scant official attention to the discovery. In the 1944-46 "Descriptive Pamphlet" of the Institute there is the statement, "More recently it has been found that desoxyribonucleic acid is intimately associated with the structural organization of pneumococci and, indeed, that certain nucleic acid polymers of the desoxyribose type possess the capacity, under appropriate conditions, to induce transformation of the various types of pneumococci. Thus, the nature of the capsular polysaccharide appears to be dependent upon a metabolic system which at some point is specifically