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THE CLINICAL CENTER
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Feb. 22, 1955

Dear Rosalind —

I'm sorry not to have answered sooner. However, as you can see by the enclosure, I have by now finished my comments on the abnormal protein.

We have done a bit more work on this — Newmark has sent more material for further X-ray study, and I am planning to make some capillaries full of the material by the method you described. If these things orient properly, I'll send you off some to work on.

Just after I had finished writing this business, I received a letter from Jim describing some work that Robby Williams in Berkeley had done — he shook TMV with some material, and apparently

broke off the protein, leaving, of all things, a center pole! This is apparently RNA, and has a diameter ~ 40 Å; according to Jim. As you can see from the enclosed (note to Nature) our calculations yielded ~ 39 Å, which agreement is quite remarkable.

I'm still planning to visit England, but am somewhat uncertain about dates, since I've run into some work here that needs straightening. Besides, Jack tells me England in the spring is superior to England in the winter. I'll keep you informed.

We are quite keen here to get one of these Hilger instruments. I believe we are not charged import duty, so the cost would be considerably less purchased directly. Also, I am told that the local servicing is terrible, so I'm not apt to be missing very much.

I'm toying with the form of the RNA inside TMV — and I think it may be possible to compare photographs with + without RNA, and actually learn something about the molecule — well, perhaps!

I was glad to hear about the ARC —.

Hope you've not met any recent Hurricanes!

Best Alex