

November 13, 1950

Prof. David L. Drabkin
Department of Physiological Chemistry
The Graduate School of Medicine
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia 4, Penna.

Dear Professor Drabkin:

Thank you for sending me the information about the crystals of human oxyhemoglobin. I am glad to learn that you apparently were right in describing them as tetragonal.

We are just beginning to make significant progress in our direct attack on the problem of the structure of proteins. The indirect attack, by way of determination of the structure of amino acids and peptides, has provided enough information to permit us to predict detailed structures for polypeptide chains, and these seem to be present in many fibrous and globular proteins.

Sincerely yours,

Linus Pauling:W