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Dear Josh:

Thanks for your note of Sept 13.

I'm sorry to say, all
correspondence of the period 1944-45
as well as before and after has long
been left behind and tossed out.
And I don't remember any of the kind
you mention, i.e. trans forming
Neurospora or on recombination in
E. coli.

Ed may have told you, but if
not you might be interested in
my recollections of thoughts and
suggestions on bacterial recombination.
When the Neurospora work was well
under way, I suggested to Ed that
with nutritional mutants the
Gowen experiment on possible bacterial

recombination could be tried under conditions in which a much lower frequency of such an event could be detected, and why didn't he try it. In part I felt that at that stage Ed should have something going for which he was primarily responsible. Do you no doubt know better than I, he put Gray on this, making mutants in *E. coli*. I don't remember how many they had or how extensively they looked for recombination, or whether these lines were involved in your later experiments.

Another interesting point:
 Before Neurospora, Ed's father paid him a visit and during this called me aside to express his concern as to whether Ed wasn't headed up a blind alley. "Here he is," he said, "neither a geneticist nor a biochemist."

It doesn't seem to me he has any
apparent future." My own
response I remember exactly —
"Professor Tatum, don't you worry.
It is going to be all right." I
know he was not convinced

I've reverted to full-time
work on the origin of corn —
convinced that the whole business
has been loused up for 35 years
and that teosinte is the one
and only ancestor. I think
I'm filing up a pretty
persuasive case. Anyway it's
good clean fun growing 50000
or so hybrids.

Best regards

Beets