

August 22m 1957
Canberra, A.C.T.

Dear Joe: *less*

Just two tidbits as we wend our way.

1. I've just seen the most marvelous simple technique for exptl. cultivation of flu virus, which Fazekas has developed here. He just empties an 11-day old egg, and cuts out 1 cm² bits of shell with ~~xxxxxxx~~ adherent chorioallantoic membrane, then suspends each bit in a cc. or so of balanced salts. The shell is necessary for buffering; the medium is kept sterile with antibiotics. The bits are good for about 2 days, and are readily handled in plastic trays. They are fully sensitive to the virus, and growth from small inocula is readily followed by the production of hemagglutinin, which can be tested for in the same vessel. 1 egg -> about 80 bits; this really is a break-through for the cheap mass handling of viruses, say for screening purposes. I hope to make some use of the technique in some genetic work. Let me know if you feel you want more details.

2. Pfizer's ~~xxxxx~~ is hunting down soil samples as follows: they asked one chap at Sydney to offer his students 5¢ per sample when they travel cross-country. a) this is too pinchpenny and I don't think anyone accepted the offer; b) I think the isolated islands would be better sources, but this country should be picked over; c) Pfizer must have made some arrangement with USDA. Just for interest/.

Yours,
Joshua Lederberg