

Prof Kasten
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I am most grateful to you for
your generous and substantial res-
ponse to my questions.

I have been reinvestigating the
mechanism of EMB staining of
 Lac^+ colonies which I have based
in genetic studies since 1946.
It can hardly be just the pH of local
medium: it is far too precipitous
that! Using phloxin uptake as a
proximate model I suggest that
this is an active process, associ-
ated with proton export in pH
homeostasis. Killed cells of E. coli
take up phloxin instantaneously.

As the pioneer already observed,
EMB is hard to work with in
solution as it forms a precipitate.

N.B. I have been interested in
the histochemistry of ~~st~~ differential
staining since High School so have
an intense déjà vu about recent
experiments.

J. Lederberg