

April 21, 1951

Dear Nancy:

To answer your question about "large bodies" and recombination in *E. coli*- the thought has occurred to a good many people. Dienes gave a paper at Cold Spring Harbor in 1946 on the formation of large bodies at the intersection of different strains of *Proteus*. This engendered a good deal more excitement than turned out to be warranted, at least as far as recombination or sexuality evidence is concerned.

So far, we have found no indication of the participation of any but ordinary bacterial cells in recombination in K-12. However, Norton Zinder is running into something in *Salmonella typhimurium* which argues quite differently, and which will probably put some substance into the mooted questions of filtrable forms of bacteria. He has some evidence of the occurrence of reduced cells which are more resistant to heat and antiseptics, and which remain dormant in apparently sterile filtrates. These possibly originate from the disruption of "large bodies". They may act as "gametes", or may initiate clones with the genetic markers of the original bacteria, when stimulated to grow by the presence of other growing cells. What is the filtrability situation in *Azotobacter*?

Since this is business stationery, I can't very well give Alan and you our best, nor our commiserations about the Okie Oath. What are your latest plans for your visit?

To change the subject again, the UW Press is fairly sure the reprint collection won't be out in time for courses this summer, but we hope to have it out for the fall. I'm sorry about this, but there are the usual shortages and delays,

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg