

Sister Institute, 13.6.52.

Dear Dr. Lederberg, Thank you very much for your letter of 30th April. Your propositions are very kind indeed. Yet I am not making any travelling plans at the present moment. As I may have already mentioned to you, we are going to have as our new Director Dr. A. H. Miles in the autumn of this year. Therefore I want to wait until I can discuss all my plans with him, and I am sure he will give me good advice.

In regard to my investigations of the K₁₂ coli strains I have now come to the conclusion that I cannot make any of the appearances I have seen and described to

you responsible for the turning up of the prototrophs. I have definitely found out that the cubical or round cells, which have sometimes occurred in small numbers, are not elements of the cultures, but must have been occasional contaminations of the widely spread sarcine tribe. They do not multiply on the minimal medium and are therefore difficult to diagnose and to culture from these plates.

There is a lot of disintegration and also a kind of L-form production going on in the cultures, particularly at edges that are drying out. Yet, these

occurrences I have not been able to connect up with the appearance of phototrophic bacteria.

In short, all my endeavors have led to nothing and my results are completely negative. There seems to be no point in going on with the investigations. This is disappointing, but one may perhaps conclude that conspicuous morphological changes are not connected with the development of phototrophic forms. I hope somebody else will solve the problem and discover what is at the bottom of the recombination phenomenon discovered by you.

Yours sincerely,

E. Kleinberger-Nobel.