

**Bell Laboratories**

600 Mountain Avenue  
Murray Hill, N.J. 07974  
Phone (201) 582-3423

**W. O. Baker**  
Vice President  
Research and Patents

August 22, 1972

Professor Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
Standord University School of Medicine  
Stanford University Medical Center  
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Josh:

How nice to hear from you in recollection of the pleasant gathering we had at Annual Reviews last fall. Your associated memory is adroit, for on the one hand you have caught the spirit, in your letter received August 21st, about the random qualities of achieving cross references, and on the other hand the connection with the most famous treatment of a certain kind of scattering of waves (or photons)-- that of Lord Rayleigh. Indeed, I have traced out the records of Lord Rayleigh's sapient comment that I had quoted. Not surprisingly, the literature of the comment was a little imprecise too. The remark was apparently first made in his Address to the British Association at the 54th Meeting in 1884. This report was published in 1885 by Murray of London, but the republication of his scientific papers by Dover of New York, covering the period 1881-1887, has a slightly although not significantly different wording. Anyway, the nearest we can find to the original reads, "By a fiction as remarkable as any to be found in law, what has once been published, even though it be in the Russian language, is usually spoken of as 'known', and it is often forgotten that the rediscovery in the library may be a more difficult and uncertain process than the first discovery in the laboratory."

BARBER, W.O.

So your query has provided another fascinating exercise in the cumulative cues to learning. For your concept of the problem of references and, indeed, of a central role of Lord Rayleigh in the literature as well as in the body of science, provides a perfectly reasonable link with what I quoted, although the words of description are very different.

cited to Serwin  
12/87

Professor Joshua Lederberg - 2

I am sorry to have had to miss the last meeting at the Annual Reviews, because of irresolvable conflict, which I saw coming long before. I am evidently caught in the inevitable cycle now, since I had adjusted to this fall's schedule, but then the change in meeting date that I heard about when the minutes arrived a week or two ago is again in conflict, so I shall have to try harder. Anyway, I shall hope to see you somewhere soon. I am much concerned about the Internal Revenue Service attitudes on Annual Reviews, and shall try to add some effort to the present plans for seeking relief.

With warm personal wishes, I am

Sincerely,

*Bee*