

508 South Boulevard
Petersburg, Va.
February 13, 1974

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Regarding your query about the work of Sherman and Wing on what is now called recombination. My answers are based chiefly on recollections of now distant events in which I was interested and to which I was exposed. I did not participate in this research, although I may have discussed it with its authors.

1. Sherman and Wing's approach to the problem. It seems to me that this question is well answered in the first page of their note where they state: "We thought it possible that if conjugation or other primitive sexual process occur in bacteria, this fact might be put in evidence by physiological tests". Perhaps he should have said: "by genetical tests", but in those days most bacteriologists avoided the use of the term genetics in connection of bacteria.

2. Helen Wing, a highly intelligent central New York state student, related to the late Prof. Wing who for many years was head of Animal Husbandry at Cornell. I am not aware of her present whereabouts but I do remember hearing that she had a breakdown in her health soon after leaving Cornell.

3 Who advised Sherman to publish his work. Dr. Sherman traveled a great deal and had many friends with whom he discussed his research problems. There is presently no one at Cornell who would fit the qualifications.

4. I am not aware of anything between the lines. However, I may not have understood your question.

Very sincerely yours,

Georges Knaysi

Georges Knaysi

KNAYS!

Sherman