

May 1, 1953

Dr. I. N. Asheshov
N.Y. Botanical Garden
New York 58, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Asheshov:

I am pleased that you have taken the initiative in reopening our correspondence. When I reviewed our previous letters, I was surprised to see the state in which I had left it. Perhaps I should apologize for Mr. Zinder. He told me that he had called at the Gardens, and telephoned thereafter several times, both on Friday and Saturday, without finding you. My memory may be wrong, but I believe he also left the cultures for you. I cannot imagine any other reason why I would not have sent them to you later. Although there is no obvious explanation for the confusion, I am pleased we can start fresh. I am happy to ~~submit~~ strains K-12 and W-1485. These are adequately described in the ~~paper~~ reprint being sent separately, with the strains.

I hope you will be able to find a method of "curing" these bacteria. Aside from its theoretical and analogical importance, it would be technically very useful in our work to have a simple, consistent method. Best wishes for the outcome of your experiments, in which I will be most interested.

You may be interested to learn that the Sertic-Boulgakov phage VIII-13 is now again available, and that its properties were correctly described: i.e., it attacks only flagellated bacteria. It is probable, however, that the flagella act as receptors only, and that the action of the phage in producing non-motile variants is merely selective.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg