

From uc/Berkeley

Dr. C. H. Browning,
July 31, 1950.

Professor C. H. Browning,
Department of Bacteriology,
University of Glasgow,
Scotland.

Dear Professor Browning:

Thank you for your kind note of June 12. I was very pleased that you called my attention to your 1908 paper citing your experiment with mixed trypanosome infections. As far as I know, this is clearly the earliest anticipation of the selective methods for the detection of microbial recombinants. May I interpret your statement "Inoculations with mixtures of two resistant strains show that the two varieties, although derived from the same stock originally, behave as if they were distinct species" to mean that this experiment was actually designed to test for the occurrence of character recombination?

I shall be very glad indeed to send you reprints of this work, as soon as I can. It is probably too much to ask, but if you should happen to have preserved an extra reprint of this 1908 paper, I would enjoy receiving it. Too, if you happen to recall any other contemporary published work of this sort, I would appreciate your telling me of it.

For some time, I have been intrigued (in a literary way only, so far) by the problem of the mechanism of induction of aparabasal drug-resistant mutants of trypanosomes. The literature seems to be somewhat indecisive as to whether the drugs act purely as selective agents, or whether they may indeed directly induce the loss or modification of the parabasal body. The genetic significance of this possibility should be apparent. Any comment you may have, or suggestion as to the possibility of in vitro studies to verify this point, would be appreciated.

Yours respectfully,

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Visiting, Summer Session.
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