

Plastus

November 21, 1960

→ Mr. E. M. Kratz
Vice President
Meno-Sol Corporation
407 County Line Road
Gary, Indiana

Dear Mr. Kratz:

Thank you for your letter of November 10; I appreciate your taking the time and trouble to go into so much detail in giving me this information.

In fact, the possibility of controlling the surface properties of PVA by adding moisture are proving to be extremely useful as we continue our studies. We are spraying, or rather nebulizing water onto precast dried films and find that this does give us very good entrapment of dust particles for further processing in the films. It is very much to our advantage to be able to control the adhesiveness of the PVA in this way. Since we are concerned with microscopic areas, the optical properties of the films after they have been sprayed and then allowed to dry out are still very satisfactory. So I believe that we are still quite close to the type of product that you are manufacturing at the present time. Somewhat to our surprise, we are finding that even films that have been insolubilized by the incorporation of hardening agents will still entrap particles in a very satisfactory way and keep them bound to the film during further processing. So we are very much encouraged indeed with the results so far.

I was disappointed to have your remarks on the impossibility of producing water soluble filaments of PVA. I am not at all clear why this should be the case - could not, for example, one extrude a PVA solution into alcohol as one means of obtaining filaments? In any event, if you can refer me to any people who are actively involved in preparing filaments of PVA derivatives, I might take this up directly with them.

Thank you for your suggestions of methods of casting films which we will be looking into.

If it is still in point, may I then resume my inquiry as to the availability of PVA ribbon in one of your standard formulations, as I brought up in my last letter.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics