

YALE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
YALE ARBOVIRUS RESEARCH UNIT

DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY
AND PUBLIC HEALTH

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June 15, 1970

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
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Stanford, California 94305

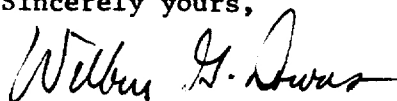
Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I have looked over the items you so kindly sent from "Science and Disease" of the Washington Post, and shall make a few comments. First, they are very well presented, and are timely and very relevant to current problems.

On the March 14th item on yellow fever, "jungles of Central Africa and Brazil" could be amplified, for New World interest, to Brazil, Trinidad, the Guyanas, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador and Peru.

In the March 7th item relating to Lassa fever, you probably know that the January-February 1970 outbreak in Jos has indeed been confirmed as a second outbreak of this disease. NCDC-Atlanta, with better containment facilities for dangerous agents, has taken over the Lassa work from us. A large effort is called for to determine whether this disease is widespread (and hitherto undifferentiated from various other diseases) in Africa, and to determine what the full life history of the virus is. A series of articles presenting preliminary data will appear in the July issue of American Journal of Tropical Medicine. Our efforts to get support funds to continue field studies on Lassa (directed to NIH) have thus far yielded nothing.

Sincerely yours,



Wilbur G. Downs, M.D.

WGD/cb