

April 21, 1950,

Dr. E. L. Tatum,
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California.

Dear Ed:

After several new attempts to contact the Strasbourg group, following Boivin's unfortunate decease, I finally managed to elicit a reply from Prof. Robert Tulasne, who has been publishing lately on the significance of L-forms. He wrote that he has attempted to revive C1 and c2, but could find only the rough forms, and begged to receive the smooth forms in order to reinitiate the work on transformation. Rather than rely on the rather decrepit cultures I had maintained here, I asked Dave to send lyophil tubes from OBL. These were— you guessed it— completely rough. From what I can remember of their ancient appearance, they always have been rough, which would be in accord with the absence of poly-uronide in our "C2-S". But the acriflavine test is much more objective, and on the lyophil cultures, anyhow, showed only rough colonies. Do you have anything to suggest a smooth culture in or out of your transfers of C1 or C2? Unless Boivin sent his smooth cultures somewhere else where they may have been maintained, it looks as if this is the end of the story. I have sent our C1-C2 strains back to Tulasne on the notion that he might be able to recognize a rare smooth survivor, but I am very doubtful of this possibility.

Have you been able to give any thought to the reprinting project mentioned in my letter of April 1? I have had favorable replies from Beadle, Luria, Hershey, Demerec, Coulson, and Robinow; Delbruck is willing to cooperate, but skeptical.

Nothing very much new.— A K-12 mutant which makes galactosidase, and some other typically adaptive enzymes, constitutively, viz. on synthetic glucose medium; some little progress on the cytological differentiation of haploids and diploid K-12; nothing on Salmonella. Esther has just finished writing her thesis, and sends her best.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg