



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Hospital

Brooklyn 9

6?
- 56
YOUR FILE REFERENCE:

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Dear Dr Lederberg:

Yesterday we shipped to you
a slant of E. coli K₁₂-J-2-1.
We grow it on the guy and Tatum
salt solution supplemented with
50 μ /ml of L-Histidine.

It contains enough β -D-
galactosidase to liberate 350 μ
of o-nitrophenol per hour ~~per~~ by
a sonicate containing, originally,
10⁸ cells/ml.

However, I emphasize again,
that the bug does not grow on
lactose, nor does it accept it.

on prolonged incubation with
lactose - 18 hours - growth
begins - but this is due to the
extra cellular splitting of lactose
by the oozed out enzyme of the
dead cells. We call the phenom-
enon - among ourselves -
necrobiosis.

I have not published any
of this stuff since I felt a
genetic study of the bug is
a sine qua non for any report
and this I was not ready
to do.

Yours, cordially
Ernest Boulton