

# DIFCO LABORATORIES

I N C O R P O R A T E D

920 HENRY STREET

DETROIT 1, MICHIGAN

CABLE ADDRESS "DIFCO"

January 31, 1951

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
The University of Wisconsin  
College of Agriculture  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

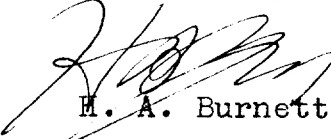
Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Thank you for your letter of January 29th and your suggestion regarding the container for Bacto-Agar. We do appreciate that if this container were of a wider diameter it would be suitable for a petri dish can. However, a few years ago, when we resumed the use of metal containers for Bacto-Agar, we tried to have them made in the larger diameter but because of the small number of cans that we use this was not practical. Of course, the cans are made to order but the equipment used is more or less standard and we could not get the larger diameter,

Perhaps you would be interested to know that a number of years ago, possibly 15 or 20, the Bacto-Agar can was of the proper diameter to accommodate petri dishes and was widely used for this purpose. As a matter of fact, some laboratories that used the complete dehydrated media and did not have occasion to purchase Bacto-Agar would write in and request that we supply them with some cans for petri dish use. Then, for some years, cans were not available and when we went back to using them again, three or four years ago, we were unable to get the proper diameter, as indicated above. However this larger diameter specification is in mind and is routinely investigated whenever we are having cans made, which is about once every 18 months to two years, so that if and when the larger diameter is available we certainly will start using it.

We very much appreciate your kindness in writing to us about this matter and hope that we may comply with your wishes before too long.

Sincerely yours,



M. A. Burnett

HAB:am