

November 12, 1951

Mr. Dennis Flanagan  
Managing Editor  
Scientific American  
24 West 40 Street  
New York 18, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Flanagan:

About two, perhaps three, years ago I forwarded a draft ms. to you on the subject of sexuality in bacteria. I did not regard the draft as necessarily a finished job, but your letter of September 28, 1949 indicated your approval of it, as was confirmed by my receipt of your check not long afterwards.

In the interval, as far as I have been able to determine, the article has not been published. I hold no exception to this, for I can well understand that the treatment, if not the subject matter itself, might be inappropriate. However, I hope that you can understand my present wish to close the matter one way or another. In my opinion, the subject matter in this field has progressed to the point that the article should be drastically revised to be brought up-to-date.

If, as I would guess, you have decided to abandon this project, I would be relieved to have your confirmation of it. If I were to undertake a revision, I would recommend a treatment of advances in bacterial genetics on a rather broader basis than previously. We also have some pictorial material on bacterial nuclei. If this alternative appeals to you, I would consider a reduced honorarium in view of your previous unfulfilled investment.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Associate Professor of Genetics