

December 15, 1957

Dear Professor Haldane:

My wife and I want to extend our thanks for your generous hospitality and forbearance during our visit last month. These are, of course, equally directed to Helen and to Mrs. Mahalanobis. We were especially sorry that she was relatively voiceless, judging from the conversations we did seize upon. All in all we did have a most instructive and interesting experience, and we appreciate very much having had the opportunity.

Of course, we did not see very much of "India" owing to the briefness of our visit, and our profound ignorance and inexperience. But we had to get over that stage by just such a visit, and next time we will know very much better what to plan to do. The world is shrinking, and if it survives at all, we know there will be ~~be~~ a next time. We hope there will likewise be an occasion to return your hospitality.

Do keep a lookout for a book I am sending by sea mail. You had indicated you had not had an opportunity to see the Symposium on the Chemical Basis of Heredity (Johns Hopkins U., 1956) and I hope it will be of some interest and use to you. It is still very nearly the last word.

We've been back just long enough now to settle in, and resume our research programs. For the moment, I'm concentrating on the inheritance of the 'F' factor, and Esther is amplifying some preliminary experiments on whether crossing-over in E. coli is reciprocal.

Thank you for calling my attention to the stachyose story in Pisum. I will see if there isn't some way to reinvestigate it by ~~the~~ 'modern methods'. However, the figures in your table 10, page 59, are not terribly encouraging, as they point to incomplete blocks and indirect effects that would be difficult to attribute to qualitative failures in any particular enzyme. Which is not far from your own remarks.

Yours sincerely

Joshua Lederberg