

*Harvey*

June 5, 1953

Dear Dr. Stedman:

This letter is written on behalf of Miss SHIRLEY HARVEY, who is applying for an assistantship in your department. I am very happy to recommend her to you.

Miss Harvey has been working during the past year as a full-time research assistant in my laboratory. This work is distant from her own specialty; it happens that she worked for us as a student assistant while she was an undergraduate. After her graduation, she wished to remain in Madison for a time, and to continue with some studies on a graduate basis. Although she had little training in bacteriology, I felt from her previous performance that she could fill her present position, and this she has to her excellent credit.

Obviously, I cannot judge her performance in her academic specialty, and must leave this to her professors and advisers in Home Economics. In her work in this laboratory, however, she has displayed every attribute that I could ask for in an assistant: reliability, resourcefulness, neatness and dexterity. She is a very personable (and quite attractive) young lady, articulate but non-aggressive. In any subject in which she is well trained, she should make a capable and popular teacher.

I am very sorry to lose her as an assistant. However, her training and interests are not such that she should be encouraged to continue scientific studies, and her career opportunities in laboratory work at her present level of training would be limited. I have asked whether she would renew her appointment here, but must agree that her present course is in her own best interest,

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Associate Professor of Genetics