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8th April, 1952

Professor J. Lederberg,
Department of Genetics,
University of Wisconsin,
Madison 6, Wisconsin,
U. S. A.

Dear Professor Lederberg,

I was interested to receive your enquiry regarding the antagonist of streptomycin produced by Ps. pyocyanea. Although I have carried the work further, and am still engaged on it, I have not published anything further.

I do not think that it would prove of any value for the purpose you suggest. The antagonist does not appear to have any activity against cells which have been previously inactivated by streptomycin it would appear only to protect cells which are growing in the presence of streptomycin.

As far as E. coli is concerned I have had difficulty in showing that the antagonist is active. I have not pursued this problem far however, since E. coli does not grow regularly in the system that I am using for measuring the activity of the antagonist. A further difficulty is that it is not easy to get a preparation of antagonist free from inhibitory activity at high concentrations.

If as the work progresses it would appear to be of any assistance to you I will let you know.

Yours sincerely,


J.W. Lightbown