

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
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BACTERIOLOGY, HYGIENE
AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

October 29, 1949

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

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I do have other ampules of the coliform strain I sent you a few days ago and will shortly mail you two more. This time I will take greater care with the packaging of the little glass tubes and hope you will receive them intact.

These cultures were put away eight years ago by the late Dr. Alden F. Roe. In most of his work, the culture was suspended in milk, and I believe the drying agent was calcium chloride. I know it was not silica gel. I do not believe that Dr. Roe put his method on record.

There is work now going on in the department which seems to indicate that under certain circumstances these coliform bacteria can be very significantly influenced by certain factors brought to bear on them. I would not be surprised if you were to find these cultures a little different from what they were supposed to be when put away years ago. These come from a collection I call "IDN", which means infectious diarrhea of the newborn. Dr. Dulaney sent me six cultures from Memphis named Garrett, McCoy, Byrd, Hinson, Terrell and Massey. I find that my records show four of them fermented lactose. The Garrett strain, after four days, had produced no more than 10% of gas and its colonies on endo were smaller than the usual coliform and quite pale. Within the period of observation, I did not note secondary colonies. These cultures were only handled by myself and Dr. Roe and at that time we were not distracted by a multitude of duties. I feel reasonably sure the culture I have called Garrett is the one I received from Memphis. Of course, in all work of this sort one cannot rule out the possibility that somewhere along the line

Dr. Joshua Lederberg

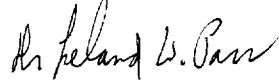
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some mistake was made. I would be very much inclined, however, to feel if this culture behaves in some unusual way, that it is the result of its having been kept so long in this state of suspended animation.

I shall be glad to hear from you at some future date what you find out regarding these strains.

Cordially yours,



Leland W. Parr
Professor of Bacteriology

LWP:ms