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Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Thank you very much for your letter of May 24th in which you mention my papers on anthrax gymnoplasts. I have never used de Fonbrune's oil chamber nor have I tried your version of this method. I guess that your technique is well suitable for genetic, fusion and other studies with gymnoplasts. However, for osmotic studies where it is necessary to change the environment of the cells several times within a short period and where it is desirable to observe a fairly large number of cells under identical conditions, I would assume that the "channel method" which I used is preferable. It has to be mentioned, though, that my method works only with cells which have a certain tendency to stick to glass surfaces.

As to the possibility that gymnoplasts can develop again into typical bacilli, I have not performed any special experiments to solve this question, but from all I have seen I would conclude that they are not able to do so. For the investigation of this problem, your oil chamber technique should prove excellent.

Unfortunately, I have not been able at all to continue the studies with that particular anthrax strain, since I left Basel immediately after finishing the second paper and worked for one and a half year at Harvard Medical School with Dr. E. Suter on tubercle bacilli. At the moment, I am engaged in tissue culture work and doubt very much that I will be able to return to the gymnoplasts in the near future.

With many thanks again for your interest and your suggestions I am

yours sincerely

*H. Stähelin*

P.S. I should like to mention that I am not responsible for the misleading word "transformation" in the title of the first paper.

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