

December 22, 1945

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Dear Dr. Demerec:

I sent you this morning by first class mail the manuscript "Recent Advances in the Genetics of the Ciliated Protozoa". Please drop me a card when you receive it for I am worried about the possibility of its getting lost in the Christmas rush.

You will not be likely to guess the amount of labor I put into that job. I have worked on it steadily since August, putting everything else aside, even to an unfortunate extent, my research. But it was a job that seemed to me well worth doing and I have profitted greatly by it myself, seeing more clearly the relation of my own work to the rest of the work in the field.

As you see, I have taken up your kind offer to let me have more than the original limit of 50 printed pages. At your figure of 500 words per page, the body of the paper will run about 60 pages, with extra for figures, tables, bibliography and table of contents. If the paper as it now stands is too long, the only way I could cut it would be to eliminate the treatment of one or more of the species. If that is done, it will of course mean at least a complete rechecking of the bibliography, pulling out titles and renumbering all that remain, with corresponding correction of the numbered references throughout the text. I should certainly not welcome that job, but I will of course do it if you say so. I hope I have written the sort of thing you had in mind for me to do.

And now I owe you an apology for not answering sooner your letter about the conference on mutations. But you can see from this negligence the way I have consistently neglected everything in order to get my manuscript to you as soon as possible. I have before me a stack of unanswered letters and other business that has been accumulating for a month while I devoted myself on the average of 10 to 12 hours a day to the manuscript to the exclusion of everything else. Your letter is the first I take up to answer.

I wanted to think it over to see if I might really have something to contribute before accepting. I am still a little vague about the whole thing, as I never attended any of the gene conferences to which you refer, but nevertheless I do want to attend and accept your kind invitation to act as chairman of the section on "Extranuclear factors". I should greatly appreciate it if you would inform me in more detail what I am expected to do in the introductory statement and how I am to conduct the discussions. Also, what hour and date is set for the first session, so I can arrange to be there on time.

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