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March 29, 1950

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
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Dear Josh:

This is primarily a note of apology for the relatively long silence from Washington. The reason for the silence is that between travel and things picking up around the office a bit, I have very little time to spend thinking about our problems. In point of fact, I had time to only casually glance at your proposed manuscript. I think things should settle down in a couple more weeks so I can again accomplish something.

Relative to your letter describing your results on a radiation H-226, as you remember in our talks at New York, I mentioned that a grad student was playing with this problem in Ithaca. In general, his results agree with yours, but you are much further along with the work. It is very interesting and not quite what I would have expected in view of some other work which has been done recently on an irradiating haploid and diploid organisms. Unfortunately, I don't have your letter here so I cannot go into any detail.

dropped I have attempted ^{two} single celling sessions recently with some rather ~~good~~ results. The first time cells just failed to grow and the second time they grew too damn fast since I had made up a new batch of medium and the micro colonies grew together while I was trying to catch a little sleep. I shall attempt to get on the ball again as soon as possible.

I was in Ithaca three days, a couple of days ago, and talked with Sherman a bit. He would be willing to publish a little description of the single celling technique separately. Do you think it worthwhile to describe the technique in some detail, pointing out its general usefulness in attacking problems of this type with a possible extension toward ~~cytological~~ ^{cytological} to be submitted along with this manuscript and appearing probably next to it? I could bat that out in half an hour or so and it might help people interpret the pedigrees we do include.

I have been trying to figure out a logical excuse to visit Madison, without much success so far. The best idea, so far, would be to come

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to Madison on a trip which I must make soon to the Argonne National Laboratory in Chicago. I probably would hit Purdue on the same trip. I shall let you know when this becomes more definite.

Sorry to be so unproductive the last two or three weeks, but it is a busy life these days.

Very truly yours,



M. R. Zelle
Genetics Branch
Division of Biology and Medicine