

143, Regent Road,
Salford, 5.

7th May, 1953

Dear Professor Lederberg,

Thank you for your letter of the 30th April which I received two days ago. The Air service does, in fact, seem to be quite good, indeed it compares favourably with the internal service in its speed.

I think that the copies which you so kindly sent should be adequate. With all due respect to the U.S., and its educational institutions, I had not till recently required so many, in duplicate or triplicate, of those various bits of paper which go under the names of Certificates, Diplomas, etc. Up till now I had always looked upon them as so much impedimenta which one collected as a by-product of life, particularly in its academic aspects. I now see how wrong I was. I will, indeed, make certain that I am fully loaded with all the necessary documents to prove my civil, military, and academic status.

The visa application moves slowly, I am at present still bringing together yet more essential papers in order to complete my application. I gather that most of the present difficulties are due to the recent revision of the Immigration Law and the effect of the McCarran Act.

The question of the antigenic constitution of the O111 and O55 types of Bact. coli is one which has been recently interesting me. It seems unusual that one can only find each of these respective O antigens in association with one particular K (B). That the O and K are in fact separate entities must, I think, be accepted on immunological grounds. It is unfortunate that the B antigen, at least in its binding capacity is so indestructible. I have recently tried the effect of differing strengths of alkali, following up a suggestion of Dr. Felix which appeared in a recent Journal of Hygiene. The antigen is resistant to exposure to N_2 , Na OH at room temp. for 4 hours, at this level the organism has become very rough but will still strongly absorb B antibody. It will, therefore, be very useful from this point of view, as well as the intrinsic interest attaching thereto, if a separation can be effected genetically. We have had quite a high incidence of O55 infections here in the last few months - in this area they have been at a higher level than salmonellas.

On re-reading my first paragraphs I feel that I may have given a wrong impression. I hope that you will understand that it is merely an expression of some slight vexation I am at present undergoing because of these visa delays. In fact, I have no doubt that it will all straighten itself out in the end. It is just rather annoying at the present, besides the fact that it so frequently causes me to

over

bother you yet again.

Once again let me thank you for the kindness and help which you have shown so far.

Yours sincerely,

A. B. Smith