

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

MAY 31 1963

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TELEPHONE 59214/5

SOUTH PARKS ROAD  
OXFORD

Dr. JOSHUA LEDERBERG,  
Dept of Genetics, School of Medicine,  
Stanford University  
Palo Alto, California.

28/5/63

1/26/63  
sent Brock House 1963  
Lederberg's  
& Nature 1954/57

Dear Dr. Lederberg,

I have read with considerable interest your recent article in Nature in relation to the Future of Man. This article has stimulated me to write concerning a 'half baked' idea I have had and to ask for your comments.

Briefly it consists of a human-algal symbiosis. Analogous situations can be found in the animal kingdom, hydra, sponges, protozoa. The technological problems of such a relationship are enormous but the major initial consideration is whether a large enough algal population could be established to produce any quantitative benefits.

The advantages on paper of such a relationship are attractive, the algae use metabolic CO<sub>2</sub> & liberate O<sub>2</sub> & carbohydrate providing a system immediately applicable say in long

D. CLARK-WALKER

OVER-

sent Brock House review

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term space travel. The problems on the other hand have been large, immunochemistry, parasitism toxicology. It could also prove social dynamite in relation to pigmented people with a shielding melanophore layer.

I have been purposely brief in the above outline in order not to bother you with the trivia of what may well be my stupidity.

at present I am studying for a D.Phil degree in the Dept of Biochemistry Oxford.

Yours sincerely  
Desmond Clark-Walker.