

January 24, 1951.

Dr. L. L. Cavalli,  
Department of Genetics,  
University,  
Cambridge, England.

Dear Cavalli:

I have just seen your article with Maccacaro in NATURE concerning the polygenic inheritance of resistance to chloromycetin in E. coli. I was especially pleased to observe this publication, as I hope that it might be available for a last-minute insertion into a project for reprinting papers in microbial genetics which is now in its last stages. Mr. Webb of the University of Wisconsin Press has undoubtedly circularized you about this project, so that it is perhaps familiar to you.

If you are agreeable to the inclusion of this paper, may I ask this favor of you: time is growing rather short, and there would be some saving of it if you could communicate directly with the Editors of NATURE for their permission to republish. They had already approved a similar use of Newcombe's paper "On the Origin of Bacterial Variants" which appeared in 1948. There will, of course, be full acknowledgment of the original source of the paper.

If there is any reason for which you might prefer not to follow this course, or if you do not wish us to include this paper, please let me know so that we can take the necessary steps.

Research is still very slow on the anomalies of diploids; I am trying now simply to collect a coherent set of data, so as to publish them as such, without attempting a detailed interpretation. We are making some better progress however in finding crossable strains. Details are in MGB, but the screening method is to cross W-1177 (W-677 S<sup>r</sup>) with the new S<sup>r</sup> prototrophs on sm-minimal agar. We find about one strain in ten, from human urine cultures, to work reasonably well. We are planning to conduct this survey on a very large scale, and to include auxotroph S<sup>r</sup> mutants from the new fertile strains in parallel tests in hopes of possibly bridging specific sterility barriers.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg