

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON



POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON

Telegrams
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Telephone
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DUCANE ROAD
LONDON, W.12

Department of Bacteriology.

29 July, 1952.

Dear Cavalli,

I want, first of all, to thank you very much for all the trouble you have taken on my behalf. This you should not have done. I have not yet received the \$101 so yesterday I rung up American Express and they said they had not yet received the money from the Rockefeller in Paris. I therefore assume that when the latter told you that the money had already been despatched to me, they made a mistake and have now cancelled its despatch themselves. Please do not do anything more about the matter. Nora and I will arrive at Pallanza at about 9.50 on the morning of Monday, September 1. We are flying overnight to Geneva and are catching the 6.10 a.m. train from there, changing at Brigue and Domodossola. It is indeed very good of you to offer to meet us at the station but please do not trouble as you may find that it is a nuisance when the time comes. Your offer to put us up at your home if we wished to visit Milan after Pallanza is most kind. We both feel, however, that we would prefer to spend the short time we have on Lake Maggiore, especially since the opera season (Nora is mad about opera) is not on.

I received your paper yesterday and, after reading it, sent it off to the editor. I found it very interesting, especially your findings with regard to Hfr. I had not realised that prototrophs from an Hfr X F- cross were F-. I gathered, however, that the prototrophs, too, were Hfr and am wondering whether they are also unstable and revert to prototrophic NfrF+. I cannot explain the Hfr findings nor the 58-161 F- phenocopy on my theory (as yet!) and find them both very intriguing. I hope we will have time for a more extended discussion on recombination at Pallanza than when last we met. You will find my paper awaiting you on your return and will notice that we have both selected very similar titles. I have made out as good a case as I can for my own theory (perhaps on too little data) but I am by no means convinced of the unity of F+ agent and "gene carrier", the latter, of course, being entirely hypothetical. As regards your own paper, a few of the sentences were, as you admitted, rather "unenglish" and consequently not very clear although, knowing what it was all about, I had no difficulty in understanding your meaning. If you like, I would be very pleased to deal with this should the editor request such alterations.

PTO.

I would, of course, take great care not to alter the meaning in any way! Incidentally I would like a copy but only if and when you are having copies typed anyway. I have not done any new work on recombination since the beginning of July and doubt if I will manage to get anything more done until October. My aim at the moment is to clean up the UV work and get it published, and out of the way.

I think it is a good idea of yours that I should pay for your reprints. I will write to the publishers and find out approximately how much they will cost.

Congratulations on your invitation to read a paper on the genetics of antibiotic resistance at Paris. I am sure that you and your wife enjoyed yourselves and that the paper went down well.

I ca'n't at the moment think of anything more to say! Please do'nt bother to reply to this. When you made your derogatory comments about writing I did not know whether you meant writing papers or included letter-writing. Personally, I hate them both though it is more the effort in overcoming initial inertia than the actual writing itself!

Thanks again for your many kindnesses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bill Hays". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Bill Hays".