

April 22, 1955

Dr. T. C. Nelson
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Dear Tom:

Thank you for your letter and the two mss. copies, which I hasten to acknowledge because it may be a little while before I can dig into them. You've caught me at an even more than usually busy time, with several papers of my own to get out of their present half-finished state. But I am very pleased to see that you have written up your kinetics work, and the knowledge that you are (or thought to be) impatient to get it out will help speed up my examination of them.

Your letter hinted that you wanted me to be coauthor on this-- surely you didn't mean the present manuscript. I have only glanced at it for subject matter, and may have cause to change my mind myself, but unless you have some urgent reason to differ, I think the authorship should be left as it reads on the ms. now. I do think this work should be gotten out before my own studies on the pairs, for which the kinetics did help lay the groundwork, at least by suggesting the feasibility of a direct approach, and by verifying the necessity of ~~more~~ working in complete medium.

I hadn't looked for it in the ms. but did you know of Hayes' glutamate effect? I don't know the details, do you? But I suppose that glutamate is one of the constituents of complete medium. I hope this paper will at least point out to Hayes what the word rate means.

Lots of luck to you Tom-- I hope you don't press it too far in dickering with Waksman about your appointment, though I agree you are fundamentally quite right. If you can hang on while Braun consolidates himself (and it's a cinch he will be the successor if he stays at all) the picture might change, but you know the local politics a good deal better than I do.

Do you ever see Polly Bunting? Say hello to her for us if you do. Has she abandoned science altogether? It would be a good deal for everyone if she could dabble at the institute in her spare time.

Yours,

Joshua Lederberg