

Oct. 26, 1956

Dear Boris:

This check came in while I was away last weekend. I assumed you wanted it forwarded direct; if you want it deposited in a local account here, I will do so and send it back.

I should ask for a settlement of account. You can decide what you think is best for "commissions"; I have spent about \$5 so far in shipping and postage charges on account of QCL. As far as orders, I expect there will be very few here. As soon as Mann has advertised, and Calif. Biochem. also, they will order there. Also, most business starts with "inquiries" and if these are referred to Mann, he will get the actual order. This is all right with me— I just want to do a service, but I should be reimbursed for expenses.

Mann thinks the Cal. Bioch. product must not be as good as yours, at the price indicated.

Boris-- can you give me a quotation on 10 gms. of either methyl or butyl B-D-galactoside?

I acknowledge your letter of the 1st; no deep comment now. We're very busy just now: The Ørskovs arrived from Denmark earlier this week & are just getting set up.

The enclosed note is going in J. Bact. (In the PNAS article, I should either have left out this comment, or preferably given it in as full detail. That has just come out in print in the current issue.) I have since met Ted Park and learned that he has identified the hexosamine he originally discovered as the UDP-conjugate with the -3-lactyl ether of glucosamine, which Strange found to be a unique constituent of cell walls. He has therefore reached the same conclusion about mechanism of penicillin action. [By lactyl I mean  $\text{CH}_3\text{.CHO---.COOH}$ ]. He will have a note in Science from the chemical side.

Not much new on protoplasts or L colonies. We have K-12 strains growing well as L colonies in agar, but tests of genetic interaction by extracts or F-xF- all clearly negative. One interesting point: Bernie Davis' diaminopimelic-auxotroph forms protoplasts when deprived of dap in a protective medium; Work showed dap is unique for cell walls. We are started a more generalized search for wall-less mutants by plating for L-colonies.

We hope Raquelita is showing some improvement: please tell her we all wish her well.

Yours sincerely,

