

Kobayashi

July 21, 1959

Dear Syd:

The particular thing I want to ask you about is for some procurement details on one of your high-pressure autoclaves for adjunct laboratory use. Can you send enough information (prices, delivery, specifications,) for us to place an order by return mail? We have access to either 115 V. or 208 V. as required.

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Gus will be arriving in about a month now; the Gibsons have been here but rushed down to Pacific Grove and we haven't seen them yet. It will be old home week soon for us Aussies. (Considering the number of palm trees, Bunya-Bunya and Norfolk Island Pines, and not to mention the gums and wattles that are planted all over the vicinity here you'd hardly know we were any place else.)

As you know, we arrived here about February 1, but were in Europe a good part of this spring, and we are only just beginning to feel settled in. But it's a very congenial and stimulating place to be, and we look forward to many happy years here. Our lab. is still a temporary (though in a new building) but we hope to be moving into the newly finished medical center within a matter of days now. The same sort of work as ever -- Hirota is ~~xxxxxx~~ going great guns with removing F and some new cases of F-coupled genes with acridine orange; Esther is crossing Salmonella x coli, and so on.

I have had to spend a little time on helping to straighten out microbiology in relation to space research, and finally feel optimistic about having gotten somewhere, at least as far as the US is concerned. I have no idea how the Russians feel about the same problem, or even if they've so much as considered it. It will be a little while yet, ~~but~~ but probably only of the order of 5 or 10 years before either country has the capability for a soft landing on a planet; I hope we will have been forearmed for the ~~event~~ event ~~by~~ with some prepared ideas and equipment for remote-control detection of microbiota. This is a program that really should have an international base, and I hope the ~~means~~ means to realize this do sooner or later evolve.

Sir Mac and I kept popping up at the same meetings all over Europe. I have to tell you that we didn't hear anything that is really at all damaging to the mutation-selection hypothesis of antibody formation. I've become so accustomed to hearing myself say this that I'm beginning to believe in its material correctness, not as a mere formalism. I've elaborated the idea along some particular lines in a paper that just appeared in Science -- I hope this may make it more palatable to you.

We have been sorry to hear that Ellen has been ill, and we know this must be a great strain. Our earnest best wishes to all of you.

Say nello to Bob and Bruce and.....

Yours,