

SAGER

March 12, 1958

Dear Josh -

It is only quite recently that I discovered that you & I have in common a certain interest; to wit, the teaching of genetics to medical students. I had intended to write you a bit about my activities before I left for Paris but didn't get a chance. This is being written with one eye on the Seine which is gleaming in the sun - as seen from my hotel window. By now you probably have heard that the Gif conference was very successful - & delightful. The motto might be taken as: Viva la cytoplasmic but watch out for tricky phenotypes! In other words, all the classical difficulties of inferring genetic constitution from phenotypes, apply also to the cytoplasm - & even more stringently in the absence of a basis for cytological correlation. I think the study of cytoplasmic heredity is about in the position of Mendelian heredity in 1905; but in our case the cytogenetic correlations will probably only have meaning on a molecular level - & neither the ^{technical} tools nor the conceptual formulation seem quite ready yet. I am encouraged however by the growing interest in the field; that's the first requisite; I think the others will follow.

Genetics: - as you may know, I was asked to give a series of lectures on basic principles of genetics at N.Y.U. Med. College. So far I have given 7 of 12 - 2 hr. lectures. They seem to be going well & are being tape recorded. If I still like them in black on white, I shall seriously

Consider publishing them as I have been strongly urged
to do. When I get back to NY (next week) I'll send you a copy
of the outline. In this letter I'll just indicate the approach...
My purpose was twofold: to present the basic facts of
genetics (present day genetics that is) in a logical rather than
chronological way; and to substantiate each point by
detailed consideration of particular exemplary experiments.
The approach was not didactic; no attempt at exhaustive
coverage; but a concerted stress on experimental method
& problems of warranted inference.

I do feel strongly that this approach has
many advantages over a more classical one, espec-
for M.D.'s & prospective M.D.'s. Will be glad to
write you details if you're interested & I'll
send you an outline as soon as I get home.

Best regards to you & Esther.

as ever

Ruth