

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE

FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH,

THE RIDGEWAY,

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LONDON, N.W.7

13th March, 1961.

MAR 20 1961

Professor Joshua Lederberg,
Department of Genetics,
Stanford University Medical Center,
Palo Alto,
California, U.S.A.

Dear Josh,

Thank you for the correspondence with Mr. Ragle and for offering to pay the freight charges on the ice samples. I have written to him to say I can look at some, but have not so far had a reply. They may prove quite interesting if the viable counts in recently deposited ice are high enough to allow of plotting death-rate curves.

Thank you also for the reprints of the periodate paper. I take it you will mail reprints to your usual list of microbial geneticists, but would you let me know about this? Bill Hayes has asked me to write up a short review on episomes for the British Medical Bulletin in May, so if Hirota's paper on F prime is coming out soon, can you tell me where it will be? Also any important recent ones on episomes (I don't think that all such papers need listing). I have seen the notes on Resistance Transfer Factors. The assay of one mutant F in a population of other F types is proving very tiresome, and involves laborious re-infection experiments, but I may get this worked out.

I am just writing to Paul Ehrlich about the grasshopper glacier project, and it looks less promising now. First, I have been roped in to edit the 1962 Symposium volume of the Society for General Microbiology, involving me in work just at the time we would have to work on the glacier. Second, stored soils (Rothamsted, etc.) shows that there are abundant surviving spores after several centuries, and the grasshoppers are probably (from the carbon dating) not many hundred years old. It is also not a popular project here, being scarcely medical research.

If I should move from here soon this would also be a difficulty.

It might perhaps be best to postpone the project. I will write to Paul about it. I take it I could be principal investigator while in London: if not, it might be best to clear this up first.

Joan joins me in sending our very best wishes to you and Esther, and to all in the Department. We hear you are in your new, and enviable, house.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'P.H.A. Sneath'.

P.H.A. Sneath.