

*Snowden*

February 6, 1957

Dear Tracy:

Have you any use for gadgets like this? (If you aren't already well aware of it).

*(Responsibly letter trays)*

What I really would want to talk with you about, if we had the chance to do it at close hand, and it doesn't look as if we do, is a dilemma that Esther and I are facing a propos a possible move to California. We visited Stanford over Christmas to investigate their vacancy in Biology which Ed Tatum had left, but by the time we finished our 'vacation' Berkeley was on the scent too ('vice' Clausen).

You know, we've discussed before whether I justified the reputation of being immovable from Wisconsin-- if anything is likely to upset it, probably now is the time. From a professional viewpoint, Berkeley seems somewhat the better choice; Stanford may have an edge as a quieter and less smoggy home-site. I can't go into all the issues by letter, but if you had any comments to make, I'd appreciate hearing them, in all confidence, of course.

These opportunities have to be weighed against another development. The medical school here (viz. Dean John Bowers) has become quite excited about medical genetics, conceived as a basic supporting science with as much attention to microbes and experimental animals as to man. Newton Morton has already been appointed over there, being attached pro-tem to Anatomy with a joint appointment in Genetics. We are now having discussions on a concrete proposal to set up a more autonomous Department of Medical Genetics, which would be a kind of bud from this one. This would comprise Morton, myself and some other member to be appointed. This has seemed a rather unique opportunity to weigh against the obvious attractions of California, especially as a realization ~~of~~ of some of my own earlier career plans. The new construction in train at the medical school would be able to relieve any of the grosser shortcomings in lab. facilities that are left here.

Since last summer, what little work I've been able to do between writing and fussing has been concentrated on the protoplasts-- the enclosure may say enough about that.

When we can make up our minds what to do about these university issues, and get our travelling over with (England in March; Australia June-~~Sept~~ September) I hope to see the lab again. If we do move, it isn't before July '58.

Yours

Joshua Lederberg

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