

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE
(Directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health)

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3 July. 1957

Dear Josh and Esther,

You may remember that I had found some reversion to the parent type in some old transduced strains. The particular one involved was a Typhimurium transduced to b-enx with an Abony lysate. The reversion was to i-enx, but I have now succeeded in repeating the experiment and have a reversion to b-12. I have also filled in one or two other gaps in the story, but I don't have any old transduced stocks in bi-phasic strains and would be very grateful if you could let me try some of yours for reversions if you have any. I have tried out about 15 monophasics of mine and Bruces without success. The great difficulty that besets all this work at the moment is that I have not found any way to speed the process up and still have to wait for several weeks while the organisms mature on Dorset slopes. I suppose that the process is due to the segregation of a heterogenote, but the proof of this has escaped me so far. It does not seem to be speeded up at all by the obvious mutagens.

We had Der Max over here this week on his way to a polio conference at Geneva where he is to speak on phage. I met him briefly at Bill Hayes' but did not get a chance to hear him on any scientific subject. Bill has almost got his Unit started but has been suffering from staff trouble since Ken Appleyard is too well fixed up in the U.S. to want to come over here and Neville Symonds looks like staying there too. This leaves him with Clowes and Ken Fisher.

I am heavily involved with statistical work on the epidemiology of polio these days but manage to spend two or three mornings a week on bacteriology and have had to enlist the services of a colleague to collaborate.

Bruce and Jane are on holiday in France at the moment as I expect you know. He is pretty much preoccupied with the baby when at home these days and is a rare visitor at scientific meetings. The last S.G.M. Symposium was the first that he has missed while I have been going to them.

Andy has been doing beautiful stains of organisms ~~lying~~ but the results are still too secret for me to pass on!

I have good hopes of getting to the Ottawa conference of the Biometric Society next year, either on the polio work I am doing at the moment or on some other fiddle that I can fix up with Luca, who is organising one of the sections. Perhaps we might get over on the Wisconsin slush fund. I am going to Milan on his invitation in September to talk about statistics in epidemiology.

I hope that all is well with you and that the phase change story is well on the way to publication. By the way, while trying to find reversions in a ~~mutant~~ I isolated a change from a to gp. I have never heard of this before and neither has Joan Taylor.

Yours,
Chris.

P.S. This letter was specially typed in view of your remarks on my writing.