

April 6, 1952

Dr. B. A. D. Stocker
New York, N.Y.

Dear Bruce:

I must apologize for our having taken so long to apprise you of our plans. We have been able to settle them to some extent only since a few days ago, ourselves.

As things stand now, we are staying in Madison the summer (regretfully, except for the opportunity of your visit), but will probably take a vacation for a month starting early August.

Meanwhile, the lab. is crammed full, but there will be some relief as the students finish up their work. Commencement is about the 15th of June, but things may be fairly quiet even a week or two before. This seems to fit in fairly well with your plans to return to the Midwest the end of May. If it suits you, why don't you stop here then, take time to arrange a room and see just what your detailed plans will be. If space is still critical upon your first arrival, you could as well use Madison as a base for some Midwestern travel. I am sure you would want to spend some time at Chicago and Urbana, and might also like to go up to Rochester (Mayo) and Minneapolis.

We've had a little flurry of epidemiology. One of the girls in the Home Ec. department came down with a Salmonella enteritis (of surprisingly chronic history), and we were able to characterize it as due to the same phage type as a culture of typhimurium we had given them earlier for studies on persistence after cooking fowl! The lab. sanitation seems to have been dubious. I'm wondering whether to press for a stool examination on all of the contacts. What would you do? I would not be concerned except for the history on the first case-- she'd been complaining of relapses for six months before a stool was done. This would be a little unusual if it were really caused by typhimurium, wouldn't it?

Do you know OC Spicer? He's written asking about spending a few months here on a WHO fellowship. Can you say anything about him?

The most exciting recent developments are with K-12. Cavalli, Esther & I have picked up an intricate system of sex compatibilities, much of it quantitative, and for that reason missed all this time. More or less as a further development, we have some combinations with very high rates of mating: enough to justify straightforward microscopy. In Salmonella, we're trying to follow up studies on the determination of the flagella, and are collecting O-variants of miscellaneous types. Can you help us on this? FA looks more and more as if its carried in phage. We agree with you about lysogenicity. Infection in E. coli seems more complex than Boyd's story (if that's correct in detail). How about Boulgakov-- any further word?