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17th. December 1954.

Professor J. Lederberg,
Department of Genetics,
University of Wisconsin,
Madison,
Wis. U.S.A.

Dear Josh,

I write in haste to ask about Helen Byers, or Bernstein as she will now be, I hear. Professor Cruickshank at the London School of Hygiene showed me some correspondence about her; as you must know she wrote to L.S.H. to request to be registered as a Ph.D. student of University of London, at the L.S.H., she having been advised (wrongly I am sure) that this was one of the only 3 places in the University of London she could do Ph.D. in genetics; the snag is that Professor Spooner and Cruickshank, in the Department of Bacteriology there, do not feel that they, or anyone else in the department, are qualified to be her supervisor; Cruickshank, therefore, asked me about the Lister as a possible place for her. I am now a "recognised teacher" of the University of London and so could if necessary be "supervisor" for her if she came here. So far as I can tell this ought to be possible (as also I presume would be the Post-Graduate Medical School (Hayes) and possibly Wright-Fleming Institute (Rowley).

Helen it appears, has been told (wrongly) that there is a dead-line, I think Dec. 31, for registration, hence this hasty note. I am not very clear from the correspondence what she lacks in the way of requirements for Wisconsin Ph.D.; I have not the University of London regulations here, but my impression is that you have to start afresh and do 2 years full time work from date of registration. This I should have thought would be rather absurd for someone with her previous record and who had worked 2-3 years with you. I am naturally anxious to give any help I can in getting anyone of yours fixed up, so I hope you will let me know if there is anything to be done.

I am in the midst of many complications. I was due to move into a new flat (unfurnished) 2-3 weeks ago, just procured at great expense, but at critical moment fell ill with fever, maybe 'flu'. I have now recovered, and have moved but have no furniture yet beyond a bed and a chest of drawers as I was sick all the week I had intended to take off for purpose of picking up stuff at auctions.

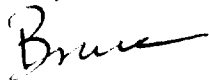
This week I can't go to auctions as we have a 4-day meeting on Bact.Genetics (of a more or less elementary and didactic kind) and I can't cut this as I was one of the people asked to organise it. However, tomorrow is the last day, so then I shall have a day or two to do things in.

All this has held up draft version of paper I have nearly completed. When you last wrote you had not got, as far as I could tell, my last letter to you, one which included half a dozen extensive pedigrees abstracted down in a rather messy way on to quarto paper. Have you now had this? or was it lost while trailing you round the country? I consider evidence for uni-linear inheritance of both (i) gene-like particle and (ii) particulate "gene-product" conferring motility, to be now good enough to write up in definitive way now. I gather you are still sceptical. I think the best thing will be for me to complete present draft, send it to you for your opinion. If you agree more or less and your results tie in (I have no details except from your letters) then we might go on with scheme for joint paper, revised so that it represents your views as well as mine. If on the other hand you think I have got ahead of the evidence you could let me know, and I could then consider whether to be more cautious, or if I remained unconvinced I might go ahead with draft, remodelled as paper over my own name only. Anyway, as soon as I can get to a desk for a few hours I will complete re-draft of last remaining section of text and air-mail over a copy to you (without figures, pedigrees etc. which will take time).

Several interesting things in lab., not my experiments, but ones of Quadling's, for his Ph.D.; details later.

How is Esther? She has not written to me for months. How is latest home? You owe us a tape message. Best wishes for Christmas and New Year. Must finish now.

Yours,



B.Stocker.

If all goes well I shall spend a week or so in Copenhagen, at Christmas. stopping with Nancy and Victor Bruce.