

April 13, 1956

Dear Bruce:

Hail the gappy bridegroom! and all that! We were delighted to hear of your marriage, and as you rightly anticipate, you have our very best wishes. We have one demand of you, though, that you send us a snapshot of the felicitous pair, so we can at least try to visualize the Stockers.

I suppose the first connubial consequences will be some transduction experiments with polio virus.

Now you certainly must come to the States for your honeymoon, if you can possibly manage it. And if you do, you must visit us at Madison for a few days. (Let me mention crassly that we ~~do~~ have a special slush fund for Salmonella geneticists ((no kidding, that's the specific category, set up by the terms of a grant to some people in Vet. Sci.)) and we can pay your fare from New York, and enough of an honorarium besides to cover Mrs. Stocker's trip too.)

I've gone over your paper quickly, and think you have done an excellent job of reconciliation; you have perhaps leaned over backwards in contrasting our data, but I will try to do the same too (noblesse oblige you know); as I get a little perspective on the matter, I wonder what all the fuss was, and it certainly wasn't worth all the extra time the discussion meant for both of us; still, perhaps we are now both older, wiser and wearier for it. If I could have foreseen how ~~everything~~ everything would boil down, I would happily have joined your authorship in the beginning, but I must admit that the main thing that separates us is style: overcondensed vs. overdiscursive. If we could have been together a couple of months again, I am sure we could have hit a happy medium. But, be that as it may, this will work out very well.

As you may gather, I have no exceptions at all to your paper, or to your ~~spontaneous~~ attributions in it. In my own account, I would not dismiss so quickly the production of many trails in softer agar, as there is a gradual transition, and I doubt that any medium will show all the E cells, and none of the mcp's as major trails. You may be right that in hard enough agar, only (but not all) E cells show trails. At p. 5, "side by side" should be altered to "contemporaneously", or the like.

My own paper has been lying fallow all this time. I've been rather fed up with writing, for one thing; for another, this has been very difficult to organize, and I don't have the advantage of a single hypothesis. But I am planning to complete the revision during the next month, and put it into Genetics. The tentative title will be: "Hereditary Chains in Salmonella". I doubt that I will play up the terminology, and may switch to unilinear in the text; the advantage of "chains" is that they can be both simple and branched,

which is a little harder to convey with --linear. This partly reflects a difference in viewpoint, as you have the principle that both E and $\mu\phi$ are strictly unilinear.

More comment will probably accompany my completed draft.

Can you send me your exact authorship and title?

Nice job on that paper for Symp. SGM. I'm looking forward to the rest of it.

Enclosed a resume on a ~~proposed~~ paper on phase variation that's just gone in to Genetics.

Yrs. again hastily,

 Joshua Lederberg

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