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Dear Joshua:

No news, just a note to say how nice it was to have you here last weekend. The Nobel Medal gesture was especially thoughtful, and I'll see that you get a print and an appraisal soon.

I'm sending separately a couple of manuscripts. One is by Oliver Smithies regarding antibody variability. He finds some evidence for both point-mutational and recombinational types of events, as you know. Perhaps the situation is so simple that the mutational changes are parts of a polymorphic system while the recombinational ones are the results of scrambling during morphogenesis.

There is a minor variant on your earlier idea -- perhaps it is really the same thing -- but here it is: A species that is polymorphis would be better protected from, say, viruses and bacterial parasites; for there is always the possibility that a particularly versatile parasite would be protected from the entire repertoire or recombinational products of a monomorphis population. Thusa mutant that made possible a somewhat different range of recombinational products would have an advantage as long as it did not become too common, and the system would tend to develop many different alleles.

In any case most of these ideas are testable.

I'm sending also a manuscript written for the Haldane Festschrift. The material on pages 14 and 15 is the part that I think is equivalent to what Sved sent me a few weeks ago, although his was more specialized. Stated as I have done it, it is a rather obvious consequence of Fisher's theorem.

Ann joins me in sending good wishes to Alberta, and if you see Hjordis say Hello for us.

And, return soon.

As always,

Jim

J Crow