

MIT 76 113

July 1, 1940

Professor Linus Pauling
Gates and Crellin Laboratories of Chemistry
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, California

Dear Pauling:

I have read your finely considered treatise with the greatest interest and enjoyment. As I told you, I feel that it marks a real step forward in formulating on a chemical basis the exceedingly complicated, but essentially chemical, processes of immunity. I like everything about your end-chain picture except the name "claspers" - on account of its connotations I'm "bearish" on that. Wouldn't it do to call them "combining groups", or "immunologically reactive groupings", or even "haptens"? I thin Ehrlich called the "haptophores", but I don't care much for that either.

I've scrawled some minor comments on the manuscript as I went along, and a few longer ones on the accompanying sheet. One of the fine things about Marrack's book is that he lets himself go and speculates a bit on the basis of sound knowledge and careful reasoning. I like this same quality about your article - if one looks only backward and not forward, one may explain much, but it will be stodgy and unstimulating.

I'm writing to this effect to Lamb, and hope the J. Am. Chem. Soc. will take the paper, but I am wondering whether you might not rather have it in Chem. Reviews, where it might come somewhat more readily to the attention of biologists and immunologists? However, I'm leaving this to you and not mentioning it to Lamb.

In a few days we plan to leave on our projected trip West, and I hope, by the first of August, to have the pleasure of

discussing these matters with you, seeing your laboratories,
and renewing our acquaintance, so pleasantly begun.

With kindest regards to you and Mrs. Pauling, in which
my wife joins,

Sincerely,

Michael Heidelberger

MH:b