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COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
A Statutory College of the State University

CORNELL UNIVERSITY
DIVISION OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
SECTION OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY
WING HALL
ITHACA, N. Y. 14850

June 5

Dear Maxine —

Thanks a lot for your two letters. The time for the October lecture is quite suitable. It looks like an interesting program and I look forward to participating. It would probably do me a lot of good to listen to the other talks of the series but I couldn't afford the time.

As usual, my spirits are up and things go well at this season of the year, whereas in mid winter and in March everything is terrible. The mood swings, and swings in productivity, really oscillate violently in Ithaca — much more so than in Washington. Other people are also affected — it's even mentioned in the newspapers. People are morose, cheerless and generally low from about Jan 15, when Christmas cheer has worn off; until about April 1. March is an especially difficult month. Ithaca is so lovely in the spring, summer & fall and so awful in winter! In addition to the depression, it's terribly annoying to have one's productivity fall off for a 2 — 2½ month period, because one has to work so much harder to catch up in the spring.

I'm glad that you enjoyed your stay

(over)

in India. Debi Burma is such a nice person!

I have a very good graduate student now, Joel Wainer, and it's a pleasure to see him perform. We've thought of looking at fluorescence changes in binding proteins, especially since Harold Edelhoch was around. Joel, on his own initiative, carried out a nice study showing that glutamine binding fluorescence is reduced and the peak shifted to lower wave length by the substrate, glutamine. Then he collaborated with Quentin Gibson to show that the rate constant for association is $6 \times 10^7$ $M^{-1}$ $sec^{-1}$ and the off rate is 10 per second. The "on" rate is very fast but not so fast that it's only diffusion controlled. Some minute time elapses while the glutamine looks for the specific slot on the binding protein with which it interacts. It's fun to watch Gibson at work. His office-lab is a mad scientist affair with stuff scattered all over & electronic gear everywhere. He has a computer going click-click-click forever and junk to the ceiling. But in less than an hour he ran a complete investigation with stop-flow kinetics, $\frac{1}{2}$ time curves revealed on the oscilloscope and analyzed with high accuracy by the computer. It's marvelous!

David & Monica both work near you this summer — Monica in Lib. of Medicine typing & David in Cowstop for Child Development Inst. on Cordell Ave. Maybe you'll get to see my dirty grubby daughter — now 18 months. She gave both Adelaide & me a dreadful summer cold by coming in the house with serous exudate running in a steady stream down out of her nose, into her mouth & all over everything

Love

Bert

Dennis