

January 15, 1964

Professor Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Medical School
Stanford University
Stanford, California

Dear Joshua:

Thanks for your letter of Dec. 31.

I will make plans to visit Stanford during the week of March 16-20 and leave the exact days open until nearer that time so that I can change it if needed. It really makes no difference whether I go via Caltech or directly. Should you develop a preference for days please let me know. You could advise me as to the best way to get from San Francisco to Stanford.

I read with interest the material that you included with your letter. I know little of computers, although I have just begun a short course in Fortran. There is a 709 in Boulder which is now linked by wire to the Medical Center and there is a computer facility planned for the Center itself some day.

In your "Instrumentation Crises" I note the section on Colony counter with special interest. Several years ago Leonard Lerman tinkered with this problem and made a partial solution by growing pneumococcus in soft agar in teflon tubing (sample enclosed). Counting was achieved by running the tubing in front of a photo cell. Inoculation was made into liquid agar and a volume aspirated into the tubing. Leonard said he was not able to solve sealing the tubes well after filling. This worked pretty well for pneumo which grows without oxygen but some other tubing might be desirable for an aerobe. It might be possible to make an indicator medium which could be utilized. Of course the success of the whole thing depends on a standard bore to the tubing.

Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

M. L. Morse, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of
Biophysics

MLM:lbn

Encl.