

June 28, 1948.

Dr. Wilson S. Stone,  
Dept. Zoology,  
University of Texas,  
Austin, Texas.

Dear Dr. Stone,

A culture of Y-37 ( $\text{B-M-Lac}_1\text{-V}_1^F$ ) has just been sent off to you. Fortunately, we were able to recover and repurify it. It should behave all right now. If now, a few single-colony streakings on Lactose  $\text{EMB}$  agar will certainly do the trick.

This culture has the interesting faculty of being "mutable"- the classical instance of bacterial mutation, namely lactose-positive papillae forming on Lac- $\text{EMB}$  agar. Other recurrences of  $\text{Lac}_1^-$  have been found which differ in their mutability, and my wife is studying the genetic basis of these differences in mutation rate. So far, they seem to represent asseries of alleles, one might almost say iso-alleles. However, some of the stocks throw off papillae which are not reverse-mutations, but "suppressor" mutations, i.e. yield  $\text{Lac}^-$  which when crossed with the wild type  $\text{Lac}^+$  give  $\text{Lac}^-$  recombinants. I thought you might be interested to observe this phenomenon on Lac  $\text{EMB}$ .

Best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg.