March 11,1944

Dr. M.Delbrück
Department of Biology
Vanderbilt University
Nashville,Tenn.

Dear Dr. Delbrück:

Thanks very much for your kind invitation to come to Vanderbilt and talk to your Science Club. Even though the Club may have its limitations,I should like to accept the invitation primarily because it will give me a chance to get acquainted with you. The most convenient time for me would be some day in the week of April 24th,the latter part of the week being a little more convenient than the earlier. I believe I could also arrange to make the trip towards the end of the preceding week,if that would suit you better. This would be during our final exam week and my course is tentatively scheduled for early in the week.

Could you give me a little more information about the group I am to talk to? Are the members drawn from all the sciences,with some lacking practically all background in Biology? Are they undergraduates,graduates or both? Of course I am inquiring to know how much I should have to present in the way of general biological and genetical background before getting to my own problems.

I should also like very much to have suggestions from you as to precisely what topic you would like me to present. I judge you wish me to talk about some aspect of my work with Paramecium. Did you have any special phase of it in mind? Would you want a very elementary account of the mating types and related phenomena,or of some of the more recent developments? Would you want a rehash of the material you referred to in the December Proc. Nat. Acad.Sci.? Or would you like an account of what has developed along those lines since those papers appeared? I presume you might even consider an account of the work I published recently in abstract form in the Proc. of the Indiana Acad. Sci. on the induction and inheritance of resistance to antibodies. Perhaps you would prefer a more general subject in which I might try to relate the results of our work to some of the general problems of genetics,e.g. "Mutations and allied phenomena in the light of work on Paramecium and other Protozoa" or "The structure of the gene and the nature of gene action in relation to work on Paramecium". If you prefer one of the two latter suggestions,I should have to spend considerable time in preparation,as I have not yet organized myself on these subjects,though I plan to do so anyway before very long. Naturally,such a talk would be more speculative and hence probably less satisfying than the others.

Let me have your reaction to these suggestions.

Yours,

For Reference Use Only. This Material is covered by copyright and may not be quoted or reproduced without permission of copyright holder.

Sonneborn mss. II
Manuscripts Department, Lilly Library
Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana