ISTITUTO SIEROTERAPICO MILANESE
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ENTE MORALE AGGREGATO ALLA UNIVERSITÀ DI MILANO

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Direzione Scientifica

Via Darwin, 20 - MILANO
TELEFONO n. 35.74.41 (5 linee)

Nov. 28, 1955

Dear Joshua,

Thank you for your letter of Nov. 25 . My appendix 1 was only a slight remodeling of what was in my original draft the derivation of the formula for expected enrichment , taking into account your wish to simplify my original cumbersome formula. To this was added an analysis of the consequences of one simplifying assumption introduded in the calculation, namely that only one resistant organism goes into the enrichment tube. Perhaps one might just add a footnote somwhere, saying :

In the calculation of the expected enrichment no account has been taken of the fact that occasionally more than one resistant organism may be present in the sample used for enrichment. A calculation of the correction necessary that taking cognizance of this fact might introduce shows that the correction is practically insignificant; e.g. in the conditions here employed where its effect would be highest (m = 2, n=10) the expected enrichment should be multiplied by the correction factor 1.055 .

This could substitute for page 2, appendix 1, but I feel that it may be useful to add (at least) the few lines above.

Stability of chloramphenicol-resistant mutant : after 25 daily transfers in broth, with a multiplication factor of 10.000 x at every transfer, there was no variation in resistance. For this experiment, the strain was reisolated from an agar slant; on reisolation a colony was found which had a slightly decreased resistance. This latter fact need not, probably, be quoted ; it just gives a hint however, of how complex a reversion pattern may be.

Book; I am working slowly at chapter 5, but am waiting for more encouragement from the other side of the Atlantic. It is difficult to give a definite shape to chapter 5 if I do not know how chapters 3 and 4 will look, at least roughly. I would prefer to have your sketch of these chapters before going on ; otherwise, dangers of gaps and repetitions are too high.

Boll. I.S.M; in the last four or five years, reprints have had their pages numbered ~~constantly~~ regularly. Ceppellini's paper was an unlucky exception due to the fact that many people (including Ceppellini, at that time) want their reprints in advance of publication, for examination purposes. Sorry!

I will keep W 1802 in mind. What will you be doing for Xmas? Ours is not likely to be terribly good. My brother-in-law, who just married my wife's sister, and who is an extremely charming person, a psychiatrist, has just received a diagnosis of adenocarcinoma of the intestine (he is about 38 years old). He does not know, nor does most of the family. It is an not operable form.

Yours ever,