

THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL  
INSTITUTE OF PATHOLOGY  
PITTSBURGH, PENN'A



December 15, 1948

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Assistant Professor of Genetics  
The University of Wisconsin  
College of Agriculture  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Your letter of December 11 has just come in this morning, and perhaps our manuscript ought to have been a little more precise on the point that you raise. Actually, the technique in this respect was to dilute the culture out to a  $10^{-8}$ , and then plating showed two colonies per cc. Of course, this is not absolutely accurate, and we should probably have made some qualifying statement to that effect; but when one considers the overwhelming number of the mucedis that were used, it did not seem to matter a great deal whether it was two organisms, or four, or half a dozen. But the fact that it actually calculated out to two brought the report from Miss McIlroy to me in that way.

Thanking you kindly, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ralph R. Mellon".  
Ralph R. Mellon, M. D.

RRM rbp