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Mitchem

SEP 11 1959

2nd September

Dear Josh,

I feel lukewarm: not anti, just lukewarm. He's certainly energetic, consistent, and thorough, to judge from his papers; and people here say that he is the best pupil Gorer has had. I don't know him personally at all. But again to judge from his papers, I don't feel he can have very wide interests: why work on mouse erythrocyte antigens, unless you have some wider purpose? And he seems to me to be rather laboring the question whether soluble antibodies kill some tumour homografts (or am I just bored with that one?). I should think that the main thing is to find out whether he is prepared to take an interest in the deeper sort of questions which you are asking.

I've asked one or two people here about him (without saying anything about your idea, naturally), and they think much the same. But none of them knew him really well.

But maybe you've already decided by now. And if asked for alternative suggestions, I feel stumped.

By the way, I finally turned down the London job, and so will put out feelers about leaves of absence from here.

I'm hoping to have the chick erythrocytes cleared up and ready for publication by the end of the year. I think there's a pretty sharp limit to the extent one can take such a complex antigenic system; I'm starting on S^{35} sulphanic acid-azo-protein, but so far nothing has worked well.

Did you see Boyse's result that spleen cells from an immunised mouse made much more antibody after transfer into an F1 than after iso-transfer? This might be a difficulty for you, but of course it might be many other things.

Vicky and Seymour stayed for a few days with us on their way back, which we enjoyed enormously. Fraternisation proceeds: Murdoch plans to spend some months next year in Providence.

Love to you and Esther,

Av.