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Department of Medical Genetics

April 29, 1957

Dear Larry: *Worse*

It's been a couple of weeks since we returned now, but I've had too much to do to write sooner. Esther and I were pleased to get your summaries, just before we left, and hope these are soon to be followed by the op. magn. Esther would like to keep in touch with you about lambda details; there isn't much we can add that you don't know about. She's been crossing $Lp^H Gal_a^- \times Lp^+ Gal_b^-$ and scoring the Gal^+ for $Lp^H/+$, hoping to get a map, but there aren't enough done yet to get any definite conclusions. Also, we've been waiting in vain for an enzymatic diagnosis of Gal_3 .

I am enclosing a summary, which of course leans heavily on older findings, which was part of an annual report I sent in a while ago. A key experiment we still want to do is transduction from a heterogenote by P1 or other phages, but there are all kinds of silly snags. At present we have the 'contradiction' that the lambda from a heterogenote carries only one piece (which was reconfirmed by:



while in crossing, as you know, the opposite result is more frequent.

In protoplasts, we have confirmed that 'stable/^Lforms' arising during the propagation of Y-10 in penicillin-sucrose agar include some DAP-auxotrophs; we are still looking for other types. We've still had no lucking in dna-transd. with protoplasmic recipients, but I am planning a strong push on this whole problem for the next year. The last few weeks, we screened a couple of hundred different coli strains as potential recipients:



This was based on the plausible idea that only a rare strain would work; the only thing we picked up was a ~~few~~ false alarm or two and one coli strain that seems to be exceptionally mutable for a series of markers, so you can imagine the trouble it gave.

Also enclosed is a clipping that I imagine Roger will be interested to see. (Our mailing address is just the same, but we're drawing plans for about 5000 ft² of space for the department in a new research wing at the Medical School (at the corner of Charter St. and Linden Drive); this won't be ready for perhaps 2 years.) We are hot on the trail of our third member; you probably know whom we have in mind. We have closed out our negotiations with Stanford, and Harvard; Berkeley is still on a very slow fire, but it will be quite some time before there's any chance of its coming to be boil.

Best wishes,