



FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY
U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

IN REPLYING, ADDRESS THE

Tbc. Research Laboratory,
411 E. 69th St., New York 21, N. Y.

November 10, 1948.

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

My dear Lederberg: } *Your choice*
~~My~~ Dear Josh:

Your reply from the editors of the JBC is certainly surprising. I have not yet heard from them, but will undoubtedly receive the same treatment. My first impulse was to write them immediately requesting withdrawal of my letter and to send mine to the Journal of Bacteriology as you suggest. I agree with you that a pair of notes side by side in this journal would solve the problem. On further consideration it seemed to me, however, that this is such an idiotic decision on the part of the JBC that it would be better to see if something may not yet be done with them. Dr. DuVigneaud here is quite interested in this work and is an editor of the JBC. I should therefore like to wait for two more events before sending my note to the Journal of Bacteriology. The first of these would be to make sure that the JBC might not possibly reconsider your letter when the editor has found that both of us consider this a significant enough matter for simultaneous publication. The second would be to see whether Dr. DuVigneaud might not be willing to intervene with his journal.

Dr. DuVigneaud is unfortunately out of town and will not be back until Saturday or Monday. I hope you will not mind the extra delay of a few more days, because it really seems to me worthwhile to try to get this before a biochemical audience. Incidentally, I have not yet finished polishing up the longer manuscript, which I do hope to get off to the PNAS within a few more days. As to the note to "Nature", I had no intention at all of sending that as well as a letter to an American journal.

If you would prefer to send your letter off to the Journal of Bacteriology at this time I could have no objection, but it would seem to me very much preferable to wait another week or two if necessary to see whether we cannot get them published simultaneously in the JBC; if that does not work I would then send it to the Journal of Bacteriology.

Sincerely yours,

Bernard D. Davis

Bernard D. Davis,
Surgeon.

BDD/h1