

AIR MAIL

January 24, 1947

Professor E. V. Sidgwick
Lincoln College
Oxford University
Oxford, England

Dear Professor Sidgwick:

I have been wanting to write to you for some months, to tell you how very pleased I am to have been invited to come to Oxford next year, and how grateful I am to you for helping to arrange this (as I assume that you did). My letter to you has been delayed somewhat, because of an uncertainty which arose as to when it would be possible for me to accept the invitation. I have been talking the matter over with the new president of the California Institute of Technology, Dr. DuBridge. It seems to have become clear that it would hardly be possible for me to leave Pasadena before the end of the calendar year 1947, and I have accordingly written to Dr. Aydelotte, to tell him this, and to ask if it would be allowed for me to accept the appointment as Eastman Professor during the second and third terms of the academic year 1947-48. Dr. Aydelotte has answered that he thinks that this would be possible, and accordingly my present plan is to arrive in Oxford toward the end of December, 1947, or possibly early in January, and to stay in Europe until the middle of the summer.

I have been pleased to hear from Dr. Sutton, Dr. Springall, and others that you are getting along well. My wife joins me in sending you our best wishes for the coming year.

Our work in Pasadena is becoming very interesting again, after the war period, during which we were doing less interesting things, especially chemical work on rockets counter and cannon powder. We are now beginning an intensive attack on the problem of the structure of proteins, including the determination of the crystal structure of amino acids and peptides. I have also begun to do some work on the structure of intermetallic compounds. Our research program in the field of immunochemistry has continued to make progress. Dr. Beadle came to the Institute last July as Chairman of the Division of Biology, and he has improved the working conditions in our biological laboratories a great deal already. There is very close cooperation between the chemical workers and the biologists here.

Professor Sidgwick

January 24, 1947

Would you be good enough to give me some advice about my Oxford lectures? I have thought tentatively of speaking during the second term of the academic year on the nature of the chemical bond, and during the third term on intermolecular forces and biological specificity. Do you think that these subjects would be appropriate ones?

My wife will accompany me to England. We had planned to bring our three younger children with us, but are not sure that this is what we shall do.

I enclose a letter about Dr. Springall, who asked me to write to you.

Very sincerely yours,

LP:par
enclosure

Linus Pauling