

ISTITUTO SIEROTERAPICO MILANESE

"SERAFFINO BELFANTI"

ENTE MORALE AGGREGATO ALLA UNIVERSITÀ DI MILANO

MILANO - VIA DARWIN, 20

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Direzione Scientifica

Milano, 29/10/52

My dear Professor,

You should have received in the meanwhile direct news about the Genetics and the Biometry Conferences from Deigozzi and Buzzati respectively. Buzzati is in charge of the programme planning for the session on Mathematical Problems in Genetics, and ^{for Biometry} know the names ^{he} had in mind for conferences in his session were rather, Owen and yourself. I am writing to inquire whether you think you can make an additional effort, and give a lecture on sequential experimentation, for the Biometry Conference. I remember that, when I was in Cambridge, you had developed a nice scheme for sequential experimentation when testing linkage in mice. There was a plan to hold a session on sequential experimentation, at the Biometry Conference, and in this case you might like either to give a paper in such a session, or advise us as to speakers who might profitably speak on such a session, or do both. Alternatively, we might restrict the session to one lecture by yourself alone. I am hesitating in putting forward this programme, because we may be asking too much from you, but at least you will be offered a large choice of topics to deal with, and in case you think you cannot cope with them all you will be able to choose according to your wishes. However, I still hope you will find the time for all the work we ask from you.

The arrangements for the Biometry Conference are proceeding well. We are at the moment missing a programme planner for the session on Public Health and Social Medicine, because Bailey, who was asked to do it, has refused, but I hope his refusal is not final. We are also missing a programme planner for Biometrical

Problems in Ecology; I see Bailey has also been interested in this topic, and he might accept this task which perhaps is less laborious than the first. Have you any advice? As to the rest, Buzzati will be the programme planner for Genetics, Linder for applications of experimental designs in industry, Cochran for training in Biometry, Wold for functional relations in experimentation, presumably Cox for methodological problems in Biometry, and Ratson for immunoassays, Sukhatme for experimental designs in agriculture. Every session should last half a day.

I have an interesting result with one of the F- strains I isolated early in Cambridge. This F- strain cannot be infected with F+ by F+ strain, and seems not to absorb F virus from F+ cells. When crossed to F+, half of the progeny is F+ and half is F-. I have not yet tested sufficiently whether the F- progeny is non-infectable as the F- parent. But so far it seems a clear cut case of a locus for maintenance of the F virus, which, odd enough, seems to be inherited independently from all other markers, as if it were an another, hitherto undiscovered chromosome. Other theories are compatible with the facts at this stage.

Meanwhile, an American phage worker now at Cambridge, Jim Watson, has proposed to me a new theory, which I am testing on old and new data: i.e. that K-12 has two chromosomes, and that one of these is usually eliminated in F+ gametes, while F- gametes contribute both chromosomes. The theory seems to work, to a certain extent. But I am not yet fully satisfied with it.

Matteo has kept asking the II volume of Harmsworth's Natural History. He should take English lessons this winter; so that I hope he may be able to communicate in English when you will come to Italy next year.

Yours sincerely
Luca.