

24th January, 1952.

My dear Luca,

I was very glad to get your letter and particularly to hear of the apparent verification of my conjecture that the germ strands in Escherichia coli had been entangled by translocations or inversions. It will be extremely interesting and important to see how far such clarification can be carried in putting the Escherichia genes into one or more ordered sequences.

I expect that by now you have seen Catchside's little book on Microbial Genetics, of which I had some expectations which were, however, disappointed. I should myself pass criticism, not on detail, but on the general aim of the book. I mean that it is much less important that it is already out of date in many particulars than that it was bound very rapidly to become out of date by reason of the fact that the matters of lasting importance concerning the history and mode of discovery and exploitation of these new fields of Genetics have been ignored, and the state of knowledge present in Catchside's mind at the time of writing set down with finality, quite as though it had no ^{real} historical background.

Probably you have heard that Catchside has now been appointed to the Australian University of Adelaide.

With best wishes to your family, and, of course, to yourself.

Sincerely yours,