

EB

Biology + Chemistry

WW

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Tuesday, April 24, 1934Prof. T.H.Morgan (CIT)

General discussion of NS program with M., as preparation for his conversations aboard ship with RBF. M. is exceedingly cordial and interested in his attitude, and asks many questions, with the stated purpose of arming himself so that he can be as useful as possible.

M. reports that he will necessarily use great caution in connection with the obligations incurred under the present RF grant to CIT in biology, a particular point being that he must restrict any recurring obligations to a figure below \$10,000. In discussing this grant with the Trustees of CIT, M. emphasized very clearly their responsibilities in accepting the grant, in particular their responsibility to carry on a permanent appointment beyond the 3-year term. This situation has been made perfectly clear so that no future difficulty should develop. M. inquires whether the terms of the grant are sufficiently broad to permit him to expend a small sum, perhaps \$1,000 to \$3,000 in furnishing assistance for Borsock, for Robert Emerson and for Wendt. WW assures M. that such expenditures come well within the intent of the grant.

Extended discussion of personnel and opportunities in genetics. M. reports that his staff have been spending a large amount of time during the last two or three months checking the recent discoveries of Painter. This technique is furnishing direct visual check for a large number of results which were previously believed to be true but for which the evidence was of an indirect character. M. is enthusiastic about the significance of the method and feels that Painter has made a very important contribution. M. speaks of Patterson as being very capable, careful and workmanlike. He believes Muller furnished a considerable amount of inspiration for Patterson's work. M. Comments in a very generous way on Muller, apparently taking a most fair and broadminded view of Muller's eccentricities and of Muller's almost irrational desire for scientific credit. M. thinks that Altenburg is not important. He speaks very highly of Curt Stern. M. is not able to remember, at the moment, anything about the work of either Harsh or Bernhard Nebel. He speaks most highly of Barbara McClintock. He believes that \$1800 or \$2000 a year spent to give her full time research facilities with Emerson at Cornell would be a most important contribution to the whole field of genetics. She is highly specialized, her genius being restricted to the cytology of maize genetics, but M. feels that she is definitely the best person in the world in this narrow category. M. speaks of her personality difficulties. She is sore at the world because of her conviction that she would have a much freer scientific opportunity if she were a man.

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