

Ref: TFR/

December 22, 1965

Dear Mr. Eastman,

Thank you for your letter of 13th December and the rather drastically unfavourable comments of the reviewer. My reaction is as follows:-

The reviewer is right in pointing out that my treatment of several topics is out of date by more than a year. This criticism relates particularly to Chapters 3-6 which were written more than a year ago. Substantial developments in our knowledge of the code, RNA, mechanism of suppression, recombination etc. have occurred in the meantime. I had intended to rewrite these sections taking into account recent discoveries and had in fact mentioned this in my letter of 11th September to you. Most of the items 1-10 listed in the review fall into this category. I could try to overcome this defect by rewriting the relevant sections.

There is however a more general criticism of the scope and utility of the book. The reviewer points out that it is not a text book but a dated review. He is of the view that <sup>a book</sup> ~~it~~ should be comprehensive and self sufficient. Let me say at the outset that I did not mean to write a textbook of genetics. The intention was to write a short account of the framework of molecular genetics (Structure and function of genes) as an introductory survey for a reader who has sufficient knowledge of general biology and chemistry and wants an overall view of this field. I tried to do this by describing a selected set of experiments which serve to establish the basic framework of molecular genetics. Such a book cannot be as inclusive, detailed or explanatory as for instance the book by Hayes which incidentally has 740 pages. It still seems to me that a book of this kind even if not commendable as a textbook on genetics may have some utility.

Although I accept the criticism that several portions of the

manuscript as it stands are badly out dated I would like to point out that by the time it is revised the book will be out of date again. I can only hope to make it tolerably so. The field is changing so rapidly that I am more or less forced to restrict myself to essentials. There may be some ideas to which I might not attach as much importance as your reviewer (the promoter gene for instance).

To conclude - I could on my part try to meet the specific criticism of the reviewer (most of which is pertinent) by <sup>writing</sup> reviewing the particular sections. I could also try to make improvements in presentation to whatever extent possible. On the other hand I do not think I would like to change the scope of the book radically and to undertake writing a comprehensive textbook comparable to the book by Hayes.

I am going out of Bombay for three weeks and will be back on the 14th of January. I should be grateful if you will let me have your views.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

( O. Siddiqi )

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