

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY AND BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING

May 25, 1943.

Prof. Viktor Hamburger,
Zoology Department,
Washington University,
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Viktor:

I have been wanting to write you for a long time, more or less ~~by~~ indicating what is going on here and inquiring about your situation. However, there has been absolutely no opportunity for such pleasant intercourse and I am afraid this letter will not contain much news.

The chief purpose of the present letter is to inquire whether you would have a teaching assistantship for Lenney. In his first year here he took courses in bacteriology, enzymology, advanced organic chemistry and colloidal chemistry, making a very good record in all of these. During the last year he has been working on an O.S.R.D. contract with Dr. Gould of this Department on a problem concerned with the diagnosis of sub-clinical scurvy. His work has been largely chemical. This contract runs out in June and we do not have anything at the moment on which we can place him. Owing to the great decrease in student enrollment in biology there are no teaching fellowships available, other than those already assigned. I do not know whether you are over-crowded with pre-medic students and whether you are in need of graduate assistants, but if you are I should think Lenney would do very well. You know him quite well and could judge for yourself. I think he has broadened considerably in the last two years. During the last year he has been prodded and stimulated a good deal to shake him loose from the complacency which characterized him previously. I have not told Lenney that I was writing you about this and I think if you felt you had a place for him it would be well to let me know right away so that I can approach him about it before making any commitments one way or the other. It is possible that we may receive a considerable number of pre-medic students from the Navy by summer. If so, we shall no doubt very greatly regret it if Lenney is not available to help with the teaching. However, he

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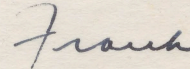
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will have to make his plans within the next two or three weeks and since we have no definite information whether the pre-medics will be sent us, he can't count on that.

Work has been going along here more or less as it has in the past year but at a somewhat accelerated tempo. The war research is now occupying so much time that it is difficult to see how we will be able to offer our regular courses during the coming year, especially since the number of students has been greatly reduced.

I suppose you will have to stay in St. Louis this summer to teach, or have you been able to wangle it so that you can get away for six weeks to Woods Hole? I hope the latter is the case and that we can look forward to seeing you on your way. I shall not attempt to pass on any more gossip at the present time hoping that we will be able to see you in the next three or four weeks. Everybody is well at this end and I hope the same is true in St. Louis. Please give our best regards to Martha. If, by any chance, she will be going to Woods Hope with the family without you (I hope she will be able to drop in for a visit with us. *(or with you!)*)

Yours as ever,



Francis O. Schmitt.

FOS:O