 June 18, 1943

Dr. Reginald D. Manwell
Professor of Zoology
Syracuse University
Syracuse, New York

Dear Doctor Manwell:

Doctor Sabin is overseas on active service and in his absence I am taking the liberty of answering your letter of June 3rd. I am forwarding mice intracerebrally infected with toxoplasma. They should succumb around Tuesday, June 22nd.

Our human strain of toxoplasma has undergone 217 passages through mice. At no time has it ever diminished in virulence. Occasionally a passage might take 5 or 6 days but subsequent inoculation brings the mice down in the usual 4 days. Both Doctor Sabin and I are unable to offer an explanation for the loss of the strain. In our experience, however, a mouse which did not die could be kept in the laboratory as a source of toxoplasma. Such a mouse when sacrificed and passaged to other mice produced a fatal disease. In other words, they were carriers of the parasite.

We have tried a few additional experiments on the preservation of toxoplasma by freezing. All have uniformly been negative.

I would be very interested to hear about your results in this work and would also appreciate it very much if I might have a reprint of your article on the preservation of avian malaria in the frozen state which appeared in the American Journal of Tropical Medicine.

Very truly yours,

Isaac Ruchman

IR:UJR