Dear Albert:

I have been so pressed by work that it is only today that I find some leisure time to answer your kind letter of January 5.

I was quite excited by the interesting report you give of the work of Dr. I. Ruchman, but I am quite surprised too because his virus seems to behave, in animals at least, in quite a different way from ours.

There is no doubt as to the clinical diagnosis, that the epidemic kerato-conjunctivitis which was observed in Paris, mostly on the workers of the Renault Automobile Factory, was the true one and that the disease behaved similarly in every respect with cases of E.K.C. as described in America. In fact, one of the clinicians, ophthalmologist Dr. Hartman, had been associated during the war with American Research workers and clinicians.

Yet the virus which we were able to isolate was pathogenic for monkeys and mice only. Rabbits and Guinea pigs never did react. In mice the brain lesions were always slight and of superficial nature (choroidal and meningeal infiltrations with rare encephalitic foci) on continuous passages through mice the lesions grew scantier and scantier and finally the virus was lost. We shall attempt to recover it from frozen specimens and if we succeed we shall immediately send it to Dr. Ruchman. If we have some antiserums stored (which I do not know at present) we shall also send some to him and I shall be on the look out for new cases. I shall be very glad any way to hear of the further developments from Dr. Ruchman research work.

With all good wishes and warmest regards.

Sincerely yours.

Dr. P. Lépine