December 7, 1964

Dr. Daniel B. Drachman
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171 Harrison Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02111

Dear Dr. Drachman:

In answer to your letter of November 30. I should like to mention first that we have just completed a detailed study of motility cycles in normal embryos of 11 to 17 days and in embryos in which a segment of the posterior medulla or anterior cervical cord had been removed in stages 11 to 13. I shall be glad to make these data available to you. The operations were done by Dr. Eleanor Wenger who is working with me this year. She uses vibrating steel needles, made of sewing needles or English embroidery needles. Her husband, Dr. Byron Wenger, who is also here, working with Dr. Levi-Montalcini has designed the vibrating device. He will be glad to give you the necessary information, if you wish. But the operations can also be done by simple glass or steel needles, as described in my Lab. Manual, where you also find a description of how to prepare tungsten needles. (There is a misprint on p. 10 under b. It should read sodium nitrite on both lines 11 and 13 from the bottom.) I do not remember where we get the tungsten wire. We make little use of tungsten needles. The coagulation was done by Dr. M. Balaban. You could write him at the Department of Zoology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, but the coagulation which he found convenient, can be dispensed with. Operations on the spinal cord can be done up to stage 18; in the older stages, of course, only the trunk cord is accessible.

I hope this answers your questions. I shall be glad to give you further information.

Best regards,

Viktor Hamburger

VH/0