

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY
HARVARD UNIVERSITY



7 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

October 16, 1984

Alastair Hay
Department of Chemical Pathology
Old Medical School
Leeds
LS2 9JT

Dear Alastair,

You will be glad to know that in recognition of her work, Lois Ember will receive a prize from the organization of U.S. Science Writers this winter in San Francisco.

The two main developments in the yellow rain problem are the now essentially complete proof that yellow rain itself is honey bee feces (see enclosures) and the failure of the results of Mirocha and Rosen to be confirmed by acceptable analytical methods in other laboratories, including the US Army Chemical Systems Laboratory. The CSL labs have analysed more than 80 environmental samples at an average detection limit of less than 1 ppm. These samples ~~(yellow powders, vegetation, rocks and water)~~ and the samples reported by Mirocha and Rosen have the same general pedigree: vegetation, rocks, water and yellow scrapings from sites of alleged attack. CSL finds toxin in none out of more than 80, while Mirocha and Rosen claim toxins to be present in all of the six environmental samples they have reported analysing. This casts grave doubt on the reports of mycotoxins and renders the question of natural occurrence less relevant to the problem.

Looking at my calendar, I find that I cannot come to England on April 22, due to a meeting in Washington. Why not ask Tom Seeley? You can reach him at the Department of Biology, Yale University, New Haven, CT 06511 (telephone 203-436-7607).

I will be in Brighton and London November 26-30, more or less c/o Julian. Perhaps we could meet?