

**Columbia University**  
**College of Physicians and Surgeons**

630 WEST 168TH STREET, NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY

Sept. 9, 1944

Dr. Victor Hamburger  
Dep't of Zoology  
Washington University  
Saint Louis, Mo.

Dear Hamburger,

I have just looked at your article in the August number of the J. E. Z. and am glad to know that the evidence at hand, and accumulating, supports the idea that the responses in the spinal cord of Urodeles is not fundamentally different from that of other vertebrates. When I wrote "Neuroembryology" I endeavored to interpret matters in terms of the explanations which you yourself had postulated, based upon your work on the chick.

You will be interested to know that at least 10 years ago, I put a graduate student on the problem. The job was to find out whether in older larvae, and those beyond metamorphosis, the spinal cord would show responses to limb extirpation and transplantation. The student was a girl with real ability. She did the operations and cut some of the animals. Then she up and married. She promised that she would return to finish the problem, and I held the material here for her, but she never came back. In the meantime I got on to other things, and Stultz did the job.

I would be interested to know at what age or length, motor neurones can be definitely distinguished from non-motor neurones. In the earlier larval stages, this differentiation was not apparent.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,

*S. R. Detwiler*

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