

COPY OF MEMORANDUM

December 4, 1935

Apropos of our discussion of a subject for a motion picture, I would like to suggest a possible subject for your consideration. It seems that Dr. Armstrong is interested in having a picture based on bacteriology and it occurred to me that we might combine this with the subject of nutrition by basing a scenario on one or several of the food cycles by showing how the symbiotic schizomycetes play an important part in the preparation of our food. Without the bacterial processes which reduce organic substances, it would be impossible to have the necessary chemical interchange between animals and vegetables and therefore it would be impossible to sustain life.

The theme of the picture might be two children getting ready to start for school. Their breakfast is put on the table and the picture would show how the bacteria played an important part in the preparation (or destruction) of the food. To be more specific, assume that we show how certain foods get to the breakfast table by showing how a plant grows, absorbs nitrogen from the soil, and forms certain organic compounds, the plant then being eaten by an animal or an autotrophic bacteria. Assuming the animal is a cow, we could show the bacteria which enables the cow to digest and transform cellulose into glucose. This, in turn, would lead us to the discussion of milk and the lactic acid forming bacteria. We could work in many foodstuffs and their related symbiotic or pathogenic bacteria such as the ptomaines, etc. This would also give Miss Guilford a chance to work in something from the nutrition angle. The picture would proceed to carry the children through the day, working in such angles as handwashing, the various pathogenic bacteria, etc. In the picture we might have some of the children's friends get sick and bring in the pneumococcus and certain of the staphylococcus and diphtheria bacillus and some of the anaerobic micro-organisms such as the tetanus or botulinus bacilli.

If this is not enough to round out the picture, we might also correlate with the nutrition angle the blastomycetes and the hypomycetes. Incidentally, the Educational Pictures, Inc., have an excellent film on the growth and distribution of molds and of certain fungi.

Although the foregoing suggestion lacks any dramatic interest, I am convinced that it would create an interest among both school and theater audiences. No doubt Dr. Armstrong and Dr. Lanza and others better qualified than myself could expand this idea into a workable plan.

(Signed) T. W. Scott