



FIGURE 2.14. Oswald Avery's chemical analyses, with Maclyn McCarty and Colin MacLeod, in the 1940s showed that DNA and not protein was the "transforming principle"—the material of inheritance—in pneumococcal cells. Avery wrote that "nucleic acids are not merely structurally important but functionally active substances in determining the biochemical activities and specific characteristics of cells—and that by means of a known chemical substance it is possible to induce predictable and hereditary changes in cells."

2.14, Courtesy of The Rockefeller University Archive Center