

9th November, 1955.

My dear Eric,

The publishers are Dennis Dobson Limited, who approached me for notes on Mendel's paper for a publication <sup>apparently</sup> ~~appropriately~~ called Source Papers in the Structure of Science, which is to be a series of annotated reprints of original papers of historical interest and contemporary significance.

If they live up to all that, they will have a very considerable series of reprinted works to produce, and it strikes me that it might be a very useful series which might well continue ~~very~~ many years.

I am glad you liked my shot at making sense of Mendel's Pisum paper. I do not doubt that he would have won contemporary recognition if he had only continued to publish a little every year until a few people caught on to his ideas. He seems to have relied exclusively on Von Nägeli as a sort of Pontifex <sup>M</sup> maximus, which was unfortunate as I expect Von Nägeli's jealous and malicious attitude would not be at all typical; at least, with a little patience I am sure that Mendel could have made intellectual contact with August Weismann, a man not much

younger than himself and who, though <sup>I do say</sup> he probably ordinarily  
read nothing of botanical papers, would surely have come wide  
awake on seeing what Mendel had shown in inheritance. I am  
sure though that the ordinary denizen of the <sup>Gebirge</sup> ~~Gebirge~~ <sup>Welt</sup> of  
the time would have thought that Mendel would have been merely  
pottering about with the taxonomy of the varieties of the  
garden peas, and why should Weismann read about that?

Sincerely yours,