

5th. February, 1930.

A.D. Buchanan Smith, Esq., M.A.,  
Animal Breeding Research Dept.,  
Edinburgh University,  
West Main Road,  
EDINBURGH.

Dear Buchanan Smith,

The method of assigning a genetic value to an individual on the strength of the performance of his progeny is as Schmidt has shown, quite accurate if (i) all males compared have been mated with the same series of females, and (ii) considerable progenies can be raised from each mating. These conditions can be fulfilled with fishes and with poultry, but they cannot even be approached with cattle. Especially this is troublesome if the real relationships are complex so that some pairs of grandsires and granddaughters are much more closely related than others.

Yours sincerely,