

28th May, 1951.

My dear Luca,

Thanks for your letter of May 9th giving me the news of the Copenhagen congress. I do not see that the occurrence of three or more nearly equivalent mutations in close proximity in the germ plasma throws any light on the nature of the gene. It does, of course, suggest that locally a portion of the strand is of rather uniform character.

I shall be much interested to learn how your plan of obtaining a complete set of strains, I suppose sixteen, using mutagenic <sup>agents</sup> ~~genesis~~ when necessary, works in practice. The main disadvantage one can foresee is that of the induced mutations being too often accompanied by chromosome disturbances.

I am not very clear what you mean by the biochemical bases of polygene action, for so far as the theory of multiple factors is concerned the implication is that all conceivable biochemical processes are influenced in their intensity or in their timing by some factor or other.

Let me know whether you are resigning from your post with the University. I may say that the University has, as it was obvious it would, run itself into financial difficulties and that the result of your resignation will be that the post will be terminated and not filled by anyone else. In this case, I presume that Cynthia had better apply for leave to do as much

of her Ph.D. time as possible in Italy if you will be able to take her there.

Yours sincerely,