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26th April, 1956.

My dear Cyril,

I do not know what you wrote to McKee on his first effort but he is evidently inclined to try again, which is rather a nuisance. I am also sending a recent paper by Kenneth Mather and B. I. Hayman which is not really worth publishing, though for courtesy and goodwill I suppose we shall have to.

In reality I think their original paper was pretty unfortunate in not distinguishing clearly between selection within inbred progenies, and selection between lines, speaking of both merely as different viability. Their conclusion that progress towards homozygosity may cease, owing to such counter-selection, applies only to selection between lines, which can be made almost negligible experimentally, and it has led some of the stupider and more derivative writers like Gruneberg to assert that they have demonstrated that inbreeding does not lead to the theoretical consequences derived from it.

Haldane has been jealous of Mather for years, and this paper seems to be merely a wrangle in which Kenneth defends himself against unfair attack.

Sincerely yours,