

Department of Genetics

c/o

19 October 1943

My dear Henry,

I was on the point of writing to you when I opened your letter. I want you to consider when you could most conveniently come over here and spend a night or more, ~~chatting~~ with me in College and discussing points of mutual interest.

I don't know whether I ever told you what sort of difficulties I am running into. After Punnett's retirement the University had very sensibly let his house but when, last March or so, it was decided to refill the Chair they did not take the proper step of giving notice to the tenant, with the result that all my preliminary discussions as to the work of the Department were carried out under the misapprehension that Whittingehams Lodge would be available, which it will not be until next Lady Day. Also, in asking that notice should be given ~~at once~~, as I did about the end of last June, I have undoubtedly inconvenienced the present tenant, a man, I gather, who has always rather traded on being able to make a nuisance of himself and who has already collected letters of protest to prevent the borough Surveyor ~~from~~ approving the erection of proper kennels for my dogs.

My Department is therefore living very much from hand to mouth, an office in the Museum wing of the School of Zoology, the dogs on the roof of the School of Pathology (through Dean's kindness), the mouse-room in a rather primitive animal-house of the School of Agriculture.

Naturally my own time is short, and it is difficult to get ordinary and necessary equipment to enable better use to be made of it. However it will be the greatest fun to have a chance later to show you how we are fixed, though it will be nicer still, I hope next Summer, to get you over when we are installed in a proper laboratory.

Yes, I should like you to put me down as speaking on the 17th. I will send an abstract quite soon.

Yours sincerely,