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Sir Ronald Fisher, F.R.S.,
44 Storey's Way,
Cambridge.

My dear Ron,

We have decided this year to run two expeditions for the Meadow Brown butterfly consecutively. One to repeat and clear up many of the remarkable results which we obtained in West Devon and East Cornwall in 1952, and the other, as usual, to The Isles of Scilly. You see, the spot-distribution of the females is the same on all types of soil (acid, neutral and alkaline), and in all climates, right across England from East Suffolk to West Devon. It then changes completely in twelve miles. Again, it becomes completely stabilized in a number of localities in East Cornwall, but is quite different once again in West Cornwall. We must analyse this situation more fully, and find out what happens in the critical twelve miles where this extraordinary change occurs.

In order to get in both expeditions, I shall have to leave Oxford on July 20th. I cannot be sure when you are coming for the dominula work. I know that Philip and I suggested it would be better if you came towards the end of the time, as the numbers will, by then, have accumulated, and there will be data to discuss. It was only last week, when I had a long talk with my colleague, Dowdeswell, that I decided upon the plan of an expedition to West Cornwall in late July, in addition to going to Scilly at the beginning of August. I want, of course, if possible, to be here when you are.

As you will know, I am so sorry I cannot put you up in my house, because my ward is at home then, and I have no spare room.

With best wishes,

Ever yours,



So do let me know when you are preparing 25000 visit.