

October 9, 1941

Dear Henry,

Thanks for sending me the paper on the Anthoxanthins, which I was exceedingly glad to re-read in print. I do think you have been most successful in sorting out for the reader the various interconnected lines of thought and of fact. It makes an admirable beginning to what is clearly going to be an important sequence of papers.

When I opened your package I was so relieved to find that it was an offprint rather than, as I had feared, a mass of controversial correspondence connected with the Genetical Society. Haldane was in the other day, in a very unbrageous mood because nothing had been done about his so-called application on Drosophila stocks. I tried to make it clear to him that nothing could possibly be done until he could say what Mrs Gordon ^would do for him, and what it would cost to get her to.

Mrs Holt reported a very remarkable mouse yesterday: in a + line litter there were a few tailless homozygotes, in addition to heterozygotes having pretty long tails. Now it appears that one of the tailless mice has lived for 8 or 9 days, developed grey pigment like its heterozygous sibs, and is about the same size. Of course I ought to insure its life for thousands, for it can scarcely be

anything other than a nearly, or quite, viable homozygote. I suppose there is a possibility that, by some accident, a mouse with a tail gets it bitten off at birth, but I don't think it has occurred in some thousands of our own stocks.

You may be glad of a reference to J.V. Neel - Genetics Vol. 26: 506, on the relation between larval nutrition and frequency of crossing over in the 3rd chromosome of D. melanogaster. Without referring to your ideas, he remarks (p.514) that the tendency toward increased crossing over under adverse living conditions is not without adaptive significance. Possibly an old offprint or so from you would be helpful to him.

Yours sincerely,