

OXFORD  
BB147.

5, APSLEY ROAD,  
OXFORD.

May 6<sup>th</sup> 1938.

Dear Fisher,

I want to tell you how  
very grateful I am for your letter.  
You have analysed the situation in  
the fluctuating colonies in a way  
very illuminating to me. I gather  
your feeling really is that in such  
a condition as that presented by  
my Malitaea colony, the genetics  
may involve complications of a  
kind which at present simply are  
not fully explicable. I must say

I have always been much impressed  
by the facts as I found them. But  
it is easy to over-estimate a  
situation one encounters oneself,  
and it is a pleasure to know that  
you also think it of interest.

By the way, I have lately  
heard of a somewhat parallel case.  
An isolated colony of the moth  
Climacis clathrata which became  
greatly reduced <sup>but</sup> suddenly and  
rapidly recovered its numbers  
simultaneously with an extraordinary  
outbreak of variation. However, the

relatively stable form left after the fluctuation has not in this instance visibly distinct from that which occurred before.

I am rather worried by the position, for on the one hand I fully see the justice of what you say and, on the other, I do not think I shall be able to make the necessary change till the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (which I hope may conceivably be called for!). I have throughout been very much over this little book. It was to appear next autumn.

Then at the last minute the publishers asked me to have it ready by the 20th of January so as to have it for the Spring publication. This I settled down to do, but got influenza in the process: indeed I went on writing when I ought not - at the expense of a subsequent relapse, from which I have not yet fully recovered.

As a result, there was no time to show the type-script to the people I wanted [including yourself !], and it was written

when I was feeling ever so bad.  
However, I did take a lot of trouble  
to write in clear, simple, and  
(as I hope) decent English, which I  
believe is worth while. So it is a  
great satisfaction to hear you speak  
favourably of it - and I think  
you know how much I value your  
opinion. I have been allowed no  
galley-proofs, nothing but the page-  
proofs you have seen: which I  
think I have improved a good deal  
while, of course permitted no

considerable change. Geo. do keeps  
the page-proof: but I will send you  
also the completed book, which should  
be better.

Thank you ever so much  
for the trouble you have taken. I  
trust that the book will ultimately  
benefit from it very considerably.

Yours sincerely,  
E. B. Ford