

DEPARTMENT OF
ZOOLOGY AND COMPARATIVE ANATOMY,
UNIVERSITY MUSEUM, OXFORD.

April 23rd. 1931.

My dear Fisher,

Many thanks indeed for your note. I am sorry you should have been put to the trouble of writing about this. Elton certainly does not feel slighted. He would be the last person in the world to do so even if there were cause, which there is not. I am not even sure if he knows the point has been raised. The question arose purely in the mind of Baker; and he had not appreciated the difference between Elton's theory and that which I put forward. (He had not seen that mine was adaptive - Elton's being non-adaptive.)

I had mentioned your name as I wished to make it clear that so much of the idea of genic improvement was due to you; though perhaps I applied it to fluctuation in this way - though who did so is wholly unimportant. Not realizing the distinction between the two theories, Baker conceived that I had attributed Elton's idea of Non-adaptive evolution to you. I therefore wrote to you lest in his conversation he should

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have made it appear that I had attributed to you a
theory with which you do not (I fancy) even agree!

Again with many thanks,

Yours very sincerely,

P. B. Ford
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