

11 September 1930.

E.B. Ford, Esq., M.A.,
16 Museum Road,
OXFORD.

Dear Ford,

It is a real pleasure to hear from you that you find my book useful. The older men of established reputation have as it has happened been extremely kind, but they are not really in a good position to judge good new work from bad, being swayed by prejudice of old standing, and, through lack of time, by the opinions of others. The real judges are always the younger men keen to get light on their own problems who for this reason are rather unerring judges of whether a new idea clears things up or not.

I am specially glad you liked the pure line argument, since pure lines have been so often brought forward as showing the inefficiency of selection. I wish for this purpose they were more easily established in freely crossing species, where their evidence would be more decisive still.

About meeting you I have two suggestions, (1) I shall be back from Scotland about the 19th., and I hope to get Pease down, in the following week, to clear up some doubts about

the strain of chicks I got from Cambridge; when he fixes a date I will send you a card, so that if convenient you can come and lunch with me and see the chicks on the same day.

Then I especially want to see you in Oxford, as I want to introduce to you Clapham, a plant physiologist and ecologist who is taking a job with Masley next term. He has a really live mind.

I have a number of misprints noticed, and if at any time you were to send me your list I should find it exceedingly useful to add them to my collection.

Yours sincerely,