

1st. April, 1930.

E.F. Ford, Esq., M.A.,  
Thursby,  
Carlisle,  
Cumberland.

Dear Ford,

What you write about Melitaea aurinia seems to me to be extraordinarily interesting, though it is not quite what I thought you had in mind, as it does not involve the survival of mutants round a complete cycle.

If the 5 years' increase amounted to 1,000 fold it would be 4 fold in each year, <sup>I</sup> suppose it <sup>might be</sup> 10 fold. Then a mutation appearing in this period would certainly have a good chance of surviving even if rather harmful. But would you expect the proportion of variants to be high? Or were the variants you noted, though surprising in frequency and variety, yet only a small fraction of the population flying about?

Did the proportion of variants increase during this period, or was it as noticeable in 1920 as in 1924? Were the deformed specimens about each year, or only in

one season? I am asking more questions I suppose than you can possibly answer, but the whole thing interests me greatly.

Yours sincerely,