

August 5, 1941

Dear Dr Fortuyn,

I have received your letter from Peking of April 23rd, which must have travelled a lot before it reached me. I am very glad Mrs Fortuyn is with you, though I regret to hear that your three children are in Holland.

Thanks for your information about Microtus. I have had to give up trapping, as my Lab. boy has been called up for service, but I can still continue some interesting selection work with the cage stocks of Mus musculus, which are going very well. Your point about seasonal changes is particularly interesting, as I had just had my attention drawn to the same fact in my selected lines, both negative and positive giving surprisingly high values this June. During the Winter there is artificial heating, and for six months there is not much variation on the average, but by July and August I find from my records of normal stocks, they are nearly 12 mm longer at 28 days old than they are in the Winter, say 70 mm instead of 58. This seasonal variation does not affect my procedure of selection, since the mice available at any one time have all been born within two months; but it considerably increases the variation ascribed to mice from the same mating, so that I expect

the effects of selection , which are already very clear, will be brought out more clearly still when I have adjusted ~~them~~ the tail-length according to month of birth.

Your last paragraph naturally interests me greatly, though I cannot yet know what anomalous result it is which has attracted your attention. Naturally I hope that my own preconceptions are not destined to be subverted.

Yours sincerely,