

17th. December 1948.

Dear Gray,

Thank you for your letter. So far as Part I is concerned I am satisfied that the only proper introduction to Genetics either for students of Botany or Zoology is the general course that I now give for Part I students, and that the subject could only be injured, and that seriously, if an attempt is made to separate botanical, zoological and human genetics before the fundamental ideas of the subject are acquired. The lecture course I now give contains far more than ever has been, or indeed can be, examined on by means of the two questions which have appeared in Part I Zoology. Often, as you point out, these have not been attempted by more than a few students, presumably because they find other questions in the same paper which they are better prepared to answer. It is certain that in past years most of the students in Zoology have scarcely acquired the ABC of the subject of Genetics, though a few have certainly felt a keen interest in the subject and have made good progress in it.

In my opinion to link the existing course with those on Embryology and Cytology would result merely in the exclusion of the essentially genetical ideas which I make it my business to teach.

In Part II the matter is somewhat different, and it would be natural that students who have made good progress with the material of the Part I course should wish to advance towards understanding the special genetic situations in certain ^{particular} animals, and that their practical work with mice should be guided by a demonstrator with zoological interests. I do think, however, that you should bear in mind that what has been learnt either by students or teachers in general Zoology courses is of very little direct service towards the study of Genetics. I think this must partly be by reason of teachers of such courses often having a quite erroneous notion as to the scope and nature of genetic studies.

Yours sincerely,