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DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

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Dear Fisher,

For some time past, I have been convinced that the most satisfactory treatment of genetics for Part I of the Natural Sciences Tripos in Zoology would be to make a course in Animal Genetics an integral part of the main teaching course at present provided for the examination. In order to do this satisfactorily, it would, I think, be necessary to have a lecturer who was essentially a zoologist. If you agree with this view, it would be extremely helpful if you could suggest what would be an appropriate number of lectures to be allotted to genetics, bearing in mind that the subject would probably have to come in the second year, during which the total number of lectures available is 60. Personally, I would like to see genetics very closely linked with the existing courses on embryology and cytology, but it is obvious that in order to make room for genetics some of the present courses will have to be cut down. I would, therefore, be very interested to know what number of lectures, in your opinion, would suffice to give students an adequate background for attending your own courses for their Part II.

I imagine that an ideal course on genetics would not be restricted to animal material but would cover the whole of living organisms. Many candidates for Part I take both zoology and botany, and consequently separate courses in the two departments would necessarily involve some overlap. It may be, however, that adequate consultation between the lecturers concerned would reduce this overlap to a minimum.

The only alternative to the above suggestion seems to me to involve a course on genetics given by a zoologist at 5 in the evening. If our views on these points are sufficiently similar, I should be glad if you could make any suggestions as to how to obtain the services of a zoologist/~~and~~ geneticist.

Yours sincerely,



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