7th. December 1948.

Dear Gray,

It may have crossed your mind that the lecturer in Genetics, if he materialises, ought to be a man predominantly of zoological interest, as a supplement to what Catcheside can do on the botanical side.

The principal animal used in this department and the most suitable among the higher animals for advanced and post-graduate work is the house mouse, and work with this species would be carried out at Whittingehame Lodge and would, I believe, not be acceptable in the Department of Zoology.

Catcheside already works with Drosophila, which is of importance to him at least for the salivary chromosomes, though I am not clear, apart from using it as teaching material, whether he wants to do much with it. In any case I do not think Cambridge should aim at turning out a supply of Drosophila specialists as the American uinversities were doing twenty or thirty years ago, but rather at widely trained geneticists with a considerable repertoire of technical and theoretical knowledge. There are, however, special projects which a suitable man might wish to take up with one or more of the Drosophila species, and an immensely important field has been opening in recent years in the genetics of the Protozoa.

Before considering whether a suitable man can be found for the post I should like to know whether you would like to put laboratory space for such purposes as these at his disposal in the Department of Zoology. There are also groups such as Isopods, snails and butterflies which a zoologically minded geneticist might wish to try his hand at.

I do not know what you think, but at the moment I am inclined to the opinion that the genetics of particular species should not loom large in the lecture courses. The most I have in mind is that Catcheside might like to give a course on maize, with such alternatives as cotton and Oenothera, and that I could usefully give a short course in the Easter Term on Human Genetics. But I believe what principally needs to be learned are methods, principles and the comparative study of parallel cases in diverse material.

Yours sincerely,