

4th April, 1935

Professor Haldane,
Dept. of Zoology,
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W.C.1

Dear Professor Haldane.

A Committee has been formed by the Eugenics Society to consider, and, if approved, forward to the Human Genetics Committee of the Medical Research Council, proposals for research in Human Genetics. I have consented to be Chairman of this Committee the work of which will be, largely, to turn down futile suggestions, and to divert to other channels proposals not suitable for consideration by your Committee.

For their guidance, however, I should be glad to open the proceedings by reading a letter from you, setting out in general terms the scope of the subjects which the Human Genetics Committee exists to consider, and, if you think it suitable, an indication of the limitations under which its work is, in fact, carried on.

Many of the suggestions will, in fact, turn more on questions of policy than on genetics proper, e.g., I have two from the former Dean of St. Paul's: -

1. Ought the marriage of first cousins of fairly healthy stock to be discouraged?
2. Has the age of the father any influence on the mental and physical endowments of the child?

Yours sincerely,