

3rd February, 1956.

My dear Sidney,

The wind is tempered alright. If your son wants a reassuring counterblast to the tripos questions he refers to, he should meet some of the types now taking genetics in Part II.

The fact is that in past years we have had a few able men capable of getting a First on those very questions. I should be sorry if their example were to be forgotten and only the Third Class coaches occupied in future years. Your son seems bright enough, and I doubt if a royal road need be built for his particular use.

No, I do not suppose either your Department or mine could recognize the latent capacity of Charles Darwin or T. H. Morgan. The former drop^{ed} medicine after a little experience of medical instruction in Edinburgh, and seems to have taken no degree in Cambridge, where, if I have it right, he read ^Theology. Faraday also would have been ploughed had the Royal Institution required even elementary competence in mathematics. In fact if I may be platitudinous, great men get over their difficulties, though difficulties they really are.

Sincerely yours,