

June 4, 1940

Dear Harland,

Thanks for your letter of May 18th with a copy of your discussion from your new paper on Dominance, which I am very glad to have.

I had, as you have no doubt guessed, regretted a great deal that some of your discussions on modifying factors in cotton appeared to be directed against the theory of dominance which I put forward; and even in this new discussion, not the views which you have to express, but the way you express them, will probably give an impression that you feel a certain reluctance in putting forward results favourable to suggestions of mine which you had joined with others in criticising.

For example, your opening phrase: "Two main schools of thought" does rather suggest independent and equivalent contributions, whereas in fact Haldane's suggestion, that what I had ascribed to multiple factor interaction might in some cases be due to multiple allelomorphism, was just such an addition or extension as any new theory may expect to receive as its sphere of application is explored. The real innovations lay in the suggestions that

dominance was itself due to an evolutionary process, and that it had been achieved in respect to different mutations through the occurrence in the past of these specific mutations and the residue of selective influences which consequently arise.

Consequently I am not much complimented when you begin the paragraph headed "The Fisher Effect": "This constitutes the second type of dominance construction." Really it constituted the original proposal for dominance modification. Your cases are, I think, the only ones for which multiple allelomorphism has been reported as a real cause. Your word "second" may be intended to state no more than that you are at the moment treating it second, but it does not have that impression on the reader.

Apart from carping criticism, I am heartily glad that your experiments have been making progress, and that you have further facts of importance to report on the very interesting cases which seem to be presented in cotton. I hope you will have in Peru facilities you need to carry on the good work. I am sorry you did not find time in writing to say more personally how you are getting on, which I shall always be glad to hear about.

Yours sincerely,