

A.G.L.

15th. March 1947.

My dear Loundes,

I was very glad to hear from you again, and that the Sc.D. has gone through at last. As you know I have thought all the time you ought to get it, and was exasperated by the hesitation shown about it.

I have been hoping that the first number of Heredity would be out by Easter, but now it may be a little delayed. However, I believe the printers have the whole material for the first number, and it need not be any later. It is, as you say, primarily a genetical journal, but both Darlington and I are very decidedly interested in the bearing of genetics on evolutionary theory, of which you must know pretty well the rather subversive views I put forward in The Genetical Theory. Oxford have not pressed me to prepare a second edition, although I believe the first has been sold out for some time; probably it was not sufficiently a commercial success to make them keen about it. It always seems to me an open question whether a book which in its time has done its job should be, as they say "brought up to date", or reprinted for those who want to know what the original point of view was.

In this case the principal change is that the theory of the evolution of dominance was, at the time of publication, new and somewhat conjectural, whereas it is now pretty well inescapable in the current state of the evidence. I should not now cite Harland's crinkled dwarf evidence as of any great importance, as

I thought it was in 1930, because it appears now there is more than one crinkled dwarf mutation, and that upland and sea island cottons have developed dominance to different mutations with apparently a different system of modifiers, the upland cottons having actually gone further than the sea island in this respect. So the story is too complicated for citation as a simple example, and is also still in some respects obscure.

On the other hand, the experimental evidence for the modification and indeed reversal of dominance by selection is now fairly complete, and leaves no doubt that the modifiers I postulated have been in every tested case available in great abundance.

I am glad to hear about Gundle, and hope you will like a spell of work there.

Yours sincerely,