

August 22, 1941

Dear Mather,

I am enclosing (i) my letter to Harington in reply to his request for the opinion of the Genetical Society on the proposed grant for the maintenance of stocks of Drosophila, and (ii) a preliminary draft of the sort of statement which we might now make to members of the Society in general, inviting applications for assistance. Please do not hesitate to amend this letter as you think fit, and send them both on to Ford with your comments.

I am writing to Ford to let him know that I concur entirely in what you have done about Huxley and Waddington.

Yours sincerely,

It has been repeatedly suggested that there is need for geneticists to cooperate in the preservation and maintenance of living material for future genetic use. The value of information services, such as have been established for certain groups, and of indexes of stocks where maintained at various centres, received some discussion at the Seventh International Congress, Edinburgh 1939.

Owing to the outbreak of war much genetical work has been interrupted, and it is feared that material of ~~value~~ future genetic value has been, or is in danger of being, lost. In view of this danger, the Genetical Society has now set up a Committee with the aim of giving cooperative assistance where this is needed. It is the function of the Committee to receive and consider applications for assistance in this respect, and to keep British geneticists informed as to what material has been kept available in this way. Geneticists who see a danger of material of future value being lost are invited to communicate with the Secretaries of the Society.

The funds likely to be available are limited, but may well be sufficient in many cases. The Committee has decided

(a) That a necessary condition of such assistance is that the material preserved should be made available as sub-cultures, seeds, cuttings, etc., to British geneticists in general, and,

(b) that in the event of any allocation being made, it will be necessary to have regular reports of the preservation of the material for the notification of geneticists in general.