

JOHN INNES HORTICULTURAL INSTITUTION

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Telephone: LIBERTY 3645

16th. May 1941

Dear Professor,

I have shown your letter and enclosures to Darlington and we have had a discussion about it. We felt in entire agreement with what you had said except that we doubted the wisdom of using the fund for the subsidising of refugee work in this country. The relevant passage of your letter to Crew was marked with a pencilled bracket. It seemed to us that the quality of much of this work is such as to fail to make a full return for the money which we might expend. Instead we thought that the money could be used, perhaps, in some way that would confer a benefit on all geneticists of this country, and perhaps of other countries too. Thus it might be used at some time for buying out or helping to buy out Punnett's interest in the Journal of Genetics, so that this journal would come under the Society's control and could be operated in such a way as to improve the standard of genetical publication in Great Britain. Other schemes of this kind might suggest themselves to you - I merely cite this idea as the kind of thing for which Darlington and I thought the money might very appropriately be used. We drafted the following paragraph as a possible replacement for the one which we marked in your letter.

" We (i.e. Fisher, Darlington and Mather) feel that the fund should be used for some purpose in which all members of the Genetical Society might be expected to be equally interested. Such a purpose would be the purchase or publication of a genetical journal which at some future time may well require a sum of this order"

I do think, however, that it would be best to keep the money intact until after the war when its fate could be decided in full committee and there would be a better chance of formulating a long term use for it.

Yours sincerely

K. Mather