

May 14, 1941

Dear Mather,

I have received the enclosed from Miss Saunders, which I am thinking of sending on to Crew with a letter of which I am sending you herewith a draft. You might perhaps see Darlington about it, and let me know if either you or he can suggest any improvements.

Yours sincerely,

May 14, 1941

Dear Crew,

Thanks for your letter of April 24th, which has been considered by the Committee, and in particular by the Treasurer, Miss Saunders.

I imagine the fund, the surplus of which we are now discussing, was formerly in the hands of the Congress Committee set up by the Genetical Society to assist you when you were Secretary General, and of which I suppose, though in this I may be wrong, that you were Chairman. In any case, I suppose the action you propose is in the name of this body.

With respect to the Genetical Society, I and the Committee feel that, either the balance should be handed over to the Society without legal conditions, in which case it would be kept as a separate fund, or that it should be held in trust by the Society for clearly specified purposes. Your letter of April 24th was clearly not written as a document on the basis of which such a Trust Fund should be administered, and its second paragraph with the phrase "financial nourishment" makes it obviously unsuitable for this purpose.

If I understand you aright, the Congress Committee agreed to guarantee £50 for the Editor of the Proceedings against any loss which he might incur in publication. I understand that this, until we

hear definitely from Punnett, is the only real charge on the fund.

With respect to other purposes, I do not think the Genetical Society is organised to perform competently the responsible and detailed work which might be included in the phrase "aid to distressed geneticists", or, more specifically, foreign geneticists in this country in distress owing to the war. I am thinking here of such points as the provision of subsistence allowances with enquiries as to other bodies to whom they might look for aid. It might well be, however, that such a fund would ^{be} valuable to this class of persons in enabling them to carry out, or continue, genetical work in this country during the emergency in which they find themselves. We already have, as you may remember, a small fund used to enable such foreign geneticists to become members of the Society without subscription during their exile. A larger fund of the same sort, capable of meeting expenses in the way of material and apparatus might occasionally serve a useful purpose.

It does not seem to me that any future Congress held abroad would in fact, or ought to, rely on the use of the surplus derived from the Edinburgh meeting. In respect to future Congresses in this country, I hope the general funds of the Genetical Society will, as before, be freely made available.

I enclose a letter from Miss Saunders in which she makes some points on the technique of transference.

Yours sincerely,