

c/o Dr. K. Sax.
THE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE MASSACHUSETTS

1st August 1938.

Dear Professor,

I must thank you for the advice concerning my F_3 family problem. I shall probably not do any more to it before coming home.

Your very kind remarks about my book gave me immense pleasure, as, of course, your opinion is the one that I value most highly on such matters. In this connection will you please thank Stevens on my behalf for the errors he reported to me, though one of them is, I think, his error and not mine.

So Punnett is to retire at last. I think that it would be very good for ^Ugenetics in Cambridge if you did move over there and take a suitable portion of the Galton Lab. with you. I quite appreciate that it would mean remaking the Department of Genetics in Cambridge, but that probably would not be quite such a job as assembling the Galton Lab. With regard to my own position in this connection, it is a little difficult to specify in detail what would attract me to Cambridge. I understand that Sir Daniel is retiring next year (this seems to be authentic) and the nature of his successor would influence my decision, for example. Financially, at Merton, I shall get £450 rising by annual increments of £25 to £600; with the definite possibility of then being regraded and going on to £900 by similar stages. The other features about working at Merton are, of course, the facilities for plant culture. On the other hand animals are distinctly frowned on. I do hope to be allowed to keep a few insects though. With regard to my personal tastes in research, I am anxious not to be tied down too firmly to either plant or animal work. In some ways I feel more at home with plants, but I do like to be in a position to use whatever material is best for my particular purpose, whether plant or animal. I should not like to be specifically associated with cytological work, but, of course, if necessary, should like to employ such methods. However, we can discuss all these points more fully in a few weeks time as I land at Liverpool on September 13th. and shall probably be in London a week or ten days later. I think that we can, as the Americans would say,

"get together" more easily about these questions, than than we can now by letter. In any case, apart from any personal interest to me, I do hope that the affair works out alright for you as I am sure that it would of real profit to Cambridge and probably to yourself, although of course I do not know the circumstances.

I am having a very fine time with East. We have long discussions on nearly every topic imaginable and I find him very stimulating and helpful. I have been working over some cytological material with a view to getting some more information about chiasma "competition" and have obtained some quite useful results which fully confirm all ~~the~~^{my} previous ideas and also provide some further information, though I am still far from understanding what causes competition. I have also been interested in complex contingency tables but have no developments to report along those lines, though I do think that they are worthy of considerable thought.

We hope to go to Woods Hole towards the end of this months, for the Genetical Society meetings. I think that we shall go to Cold Spring Harbor during the next few weeks, and shall probably see Dunn in New York then. I missed him when coming through New york before.

Yours sincerely,

K. Mather

P.S. Mrs. Mather joins me in sending best wishes to Mrs. Fisher and the family.