

31 May 1943

Dear Dr Pye,

I am writing to let you know, as perhaps you have already heard, that I have been elected to the Arthur Balfour Chair of Genetics in Cambridge. This must mean my relinquishing the Galton Chair of Eugenics, though at what date I should do so seems a matter for consideration.

I will, as soon as possible, explore the immediate situation in Cambridge with a view to moving my mice and dogs. I imagine, however, that there is at present no suitable accommodation and that some time will be needed before any can be made ready. In the meanwhile there are a few points which I should like to take up at once in respect of the property of University College now in use in the Galton Laboratory.

The mouse-stocks are my own property and were brought with me to the College in 1933. The College could, however, properly claim their cages. These are expensive enough when new, especially in war-time, but not easy to value when much gnawed and patched with bits of perforated zinc. I think it would probably suit the College as well as myself best if my new Department bought from my old these cages, and associated miscellaneous equipment for some small sum such as a tenner.

In the Lab. I have three to four hundred pamphlet cases, containing for the most part my own offprint collection. There are also some used in connexion with the editing of the Annals of Eugenics. These pamphlet-cases also I should like to take, if that course suits the College, in which case I suppose an objective valuation can be arrived at. These, however, are small matters about which I am only anxious to avoid any possible ground for unpleasantness.

It has occurred to me that you may wish not immediately to fill the Galton Chair. In that case, or indeed in any event, I should be glad to know whether the College would consider parting with the Journal, the Annals of Eugenics, for which I have been responsible. In taking this over ten years ago, I did some what alter its character and, though it has been an uphill work to get new subscribers, yet I believe it has found a new audience with genetical and experimental as well as statistical interests, and does fill a definite place in the scientific literature. It is indeed published at a loss, which can only be made good by the sale of the accumulated stock of previous volumes, which many new subscribers require to buy. If the College wished to part with this journal as a going concern, I should be prepared to undertake to continue it, probably with some change of name from my new department. This is a matter of policy on which I should be glad of your early decision.

A second point I should like to raise concerns the calculating machines now in use in the Galton Laboratory. There are six of these though not all in good condition owing to the war-time difficulty of getting repairs. They are now largely employed on agricultural work, and I have undertaken to the Agricultural Research Council to continue my work for them as long as possible from Cambridge. A little while ago new machines were nearly unobtainable but I believe that they are now again offered freely in this country. Consequently, without it being a matter of pressing necessity, I would still like to ask as a matter of convenience whether the College would be willing to lend three of these machines to the A.R.C. in return for an undertaking to maintain them in good condition and return them, at reasonable notice given, when the Department again requires their use.

I have notified Sir John Russell of my new appointment, but it is of course for the College to decide whether the Laboratory here is to be closed next September.

Yours sincerely,