

24th. January 1949.

My dear Rob,

Many thanks for your note. It is really kind of you to keep on adding to my collection of freaks and monsters on the question of meiosis in mammals.

I have not the least notion what Professor Hamilton meant by saying "quite dogmatically" that the second maturation division is the reducing division. I always suppose the word meiosis, meaning reduction, to be applied to two successive cell divisions, involving only a single duplication of the chromatin elements, and if he means no more than that the number of these elements in the nucleus only falls to the haploid number at the second division, I think his assertion would command widespread agreement. On the other hand, it must be in the process of the first division that the chromosome breaks and recombinations are determined, and I am afraid, if my mice are to have their way, they will have to be allowed to perform the first division also from time to time throughout their lives, i.e. in the maturation from diploid tissue of new haploid ova.

Heslot here has recently assured me that it is known in the medical faculty in France that ova are developed de novo throughout life, but I have not collected a quotation of an authority from him. He also seems to have pretty good evidence

of a similar fall in cross over frequency <sup>in mice in my stock</sup> in the sixth chromosome,  
but I have not seen the results of separating the sexes in this  
case.

I am so glad to hear about the anti-not Kell. As things  
get more numerous will you not need a language of the kind for  
which the Greek prepositions seem to be well fitted, developed  
with the same sort of methodical zeal that Lavoisier showed  
in developing chemical nomenclature? Perhaps you will try  
what a lexicon can do to help.

Yours sincerely,