Aug. 8th. 1933.

Dr. J. Rasmusson,
Svalof,
Sweden.

My dear Rasmusson,

I was very glad to have your offprints and especially the Contribution to the Theory of the Inheritance of Quantitative Character.

With respect to yield I am sure you are right that an interaction in the sense of a mutual inhibition of quantitative effects occurs in the neighbourhood in the maximum yield obtainable. I do not however like to apply this explanation to a character like plant height, which I am sure could be much increased in the case of cereals at the expense of yield, if anyone cared to select solely for this character. But the delayed inbreeding effect, for which good published data seems almost lacking, is certainly as recognisable in height as in

yield and I wonder whether you have considered from this point of view the delay introduced, into species perhaps of recent tetraploid origin in which many of the deleterious recessives occur as duplicate pairs or triplicate trios.

I am inclined to suggest, in fact, that good data on progressive inbreeding might in some characters afford a basis for estimating the proportion of recessives which belong to duplicate pairs, but this calculation would only be valid if interactions could be neglected entirely.

When you have time let me know what you think about this.

Yours sincerely,