

29th May, 1935

F. Yates Esq.,  
Rothamsted Experimental Station,  
HARPENDEN

Dear Yates.

In connection with the Committee of the British Association on Biological Measurements, which has been meeting this year for the purpose of bringing out a fresh edition of our leaflet on the subject, and of getting more use made of the Archives established at South Kensington for the reception of bodies of original data, a certain amount of difficulty has arisen with institutions such as the Imperial Bureau of Entomology and the Marine Biological Association's station at Plymouth, who either have, or ought to have, Archives accessible to the scientific public, dealing with their own work, and perhaps other work relevant thereto.

It would be the greatest pity if such institutions were to regard the Archives at the Museum as infringing their interests, or were to fail to cooperate with them in such rational ways as exchanging index cards of relevant material, or perhaps, in special cases, of duplicating the material itself.

As Rothamsted has probably done more than any other station in the way of accumulating quantitative data for its own use, I suggested to Galman that it would be worth while

for his librarian, Mr. Townsend, who is in charge of his Archives, to raise the question with you, so as to set up a model form of cooperation which might serve as an example and allay any incipient jealousy which might be felt by other institutions.

I have just heard from Dr. Calman that he has seen Mr. Townsend "about filing cross-references to the Rothamsted Archives." He is perfectly willing to do so, but wants more light on: (1) What classes of the Rothamsted data would be worth cross-references here? (2) What headings should he file them under, so as to make them most easily accessible to the people who are likely to use them? I shall tell him that I have sent this point from his letter on to you, suggesting that you should take the matter up direct with Mr. Townsend.

What I suggest, if you think it would be harmless, and perhaps useful, is that some of the Rothamsted material which is of more than agricultural interest, such as the survey of soil insects carried out by Morris, some years ago, should be summarised so as to give a general idea of the quantity and scope of the data available, with a reference to the published paper or papers in which it has been already discussed, and that similar references should be selected from time to time from the body of stuff which is annually put away in charge of your Department. In return, I presume the Museum would supply corresponding information on the deposits

F.Yates Esq.

(3)

29/5/1935

(I believe only eight in number, so far), which have been made at the Natural History Museum. This number may, however, increase considerably in the future, as we now have references to the Archives in quite a number of the leading scientific journals.

I hope this will not be too much bother to you.

Yours sincerely,