

Department of Pathology,

THE UNIVERSITY,
GLASGOW, W. 2
Tel. WARRAH 3991.

9th January, 1948.

Professor R.A. Fisher,
Department of Genetics,
Whittinghame Lodge,
CAMBRIDGE.

My dear Fisher,

I enclose a note of the data I recently got from the Northern Counties of Scotland showing the surprisingly High O and low A distribution in Ross-shire; I think you said these figures would be of interest to you.

I wonder if you have read the paper by Waterhouse and Hegben in the first number of the British Journal of Soc. Med., January 1947, on the apparent loss of A fetuses from O mothers? I am astonished to see that their analysis of published data leads to an estimate that there is a loss of 25 per cent. of A children from A x O marriages. If this were generally true would it not lead to such a degree of selection in favour of O that A would become extinct? I do not feel qualified to judge the mathematical analysis but I should be most interested to know whether you think their conclusions are sound. The point is of course important also in relation to the apparently protective effect of the foetal A when the mother is O Rh ~~positive~~ negative. If you think their analysis is faulty I should be glad of your advice as otherwise I might wish to use their conclusion in my London lecture. I had missed Mourant's letter to Nature on the Basques but had got a hold of Stchivery's data myself and was greatly interested in the finding of a race in whom the rh (rh .59 - Rh .41) gene is actually predominant. It begins to look as if the 16 per cent. negatives may have arisen from the crossing of a positive with a more primitive negative people of whom the Basques are the last living representatives.

I saw a notice in the Lancet of January 3rd (page 48) of a prize of £50 for original work on blood transfusion. I have written to the Trustees suggesting Race's name as I do not think anyone has contributed more than he. I think, if you approve, it might be a good thing if you also would write suggesting Race independently. It is only £50 but still

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

D.F. Lancel.