

8 October 1945

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Dear Dr. de Hevesy,

Thank you for your letters of September 30 and October 3. Yes, I am sure all mammals once used all four legs; I return your draft. I send also an offprint by Race, Taylor and others giving accurate ABO blood-group percentages for England, and one by Hart showing his interesting experience in Northern Ireland, where a considerable Scottish and English settlement occurred in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. There are therefore mixed in the ^{rural} villages English, Scottish and Irish surnames. Blood-groups of donors bearing characteristically Scottish and Irish surnames agree in their blood-group frequencies as do the main bodies of their people. Those bearing English surnames are, however, about "half-way to London" in respect of blood-group frequencies. Thus ten generations of "melting-pot" activity has done precious little melting, and I infer with confidence that Boston will still be an Italian town in 500 years' time.

TRANSCRIPTION OF NOTE:

Blood group differences are probably numerous. Three classifications are well known; the 6 classes due to A_1, A_2 and B mentioned in the text; the 3 classes due to M, N ; probably 27 classes of the Rhesus factor which is important in respect of compatibility of married couples; much infant mortality and prenatal death, and probably much mental deficiency is due to incompatibility in this factor. Other factors not yet investigated are confidently to be expected.