

30th. December, 1939.

Mr Marc J. Feldstein,
2173 Cummington Road,
CLEVELAND,
Ohio, U.S.A.

Dear Mr Feldstein,

Many thanks for your kind wishes conveyed to me in your interesting letter of December 18th. May I wish you in return a very profitable new year. I sympathise with you entirely as to the reception of new ideas by all the kind hearted folk who are too lazy to use them. There is one amenity of our age, easy publication, which, however, as it seems to me, can be put to a good as well as to a bad use. I agree that the editors ought to reject much more, and would do so if they had the brains, and the time, to do their job properly, but to be able to set out your work piecemeal as it is done, is a real advantage both to the writer and the reader. It gives valuable opportunities for reconsidering questions of order and emphasis in the presentation of the completed work; and it helps greatly to educate the small group of readers who at

most will in the end be ready to appreciate it. The history, too, of the development of fundamental ideas has been much obscured by the hesitation of great men to publish incomplete work. I have recently been much struck by this in the comparison of the "Origin of Species" and other later works of Darwin, with the two originally unpublished essays of 1842 and 1845. In my new book on "The Genetic Theory of Natural Selection", which I hope will soon be out, I have devoted the first chapter to showing that the logical argument upon which Darwin relied, which finds expression only in these essays, in fact governed the opinions expressed in the Origin, and later, by Darwin and other biologists resting on his authority. The bearing of Mendelism upon evolutionary theory could scarcely have been so misunderstood as it has been, if these essays had first put Darwin's views incompletely before the world.

I am no economist; you alone must judge as to what it is worth while to send me.

Yours sincerely,