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26th April, 1956.

Sir Ronald Fisher, F.R.S.,
44, Storey's Way,
Cambridge.

My dear Ron,

Thank you very much for your letter. It is, as you know, a regret to me that I shall not this year have a spare room for you in my house at the time the dominula work is in progress but, as I have explained, that difficulty is not likely to occur again. I myself think it would certainly be better if you were to come rather later in the season, when the data for 1956 are accumulating. The discussion of them towards the end of the emergence would evidently be more fruitful. As you rather suggest, therefore, I should be inclined to favour a date about the third weekend, rather than the middle, of July.

I strongly agree with your point in regard to the Darwin Centenary celebrations. Nothing could be more appropriate than an evaluation of human subspeciation in the light of the blood groups. It is, I am sure, just what would have attracted Darwin himself. I think the best speakers on this head would be either Race, Allison, or Philip Sheppard himself. Allison is a good speaker and a more accomplished geneticist than is Rob though, of course, he does not know anything like as much of the serology. I find Race quite an attractive speaker these days. He has improved a lot. Personally, I should not favour Mourant. I have never heard him speak, but I find it difficult to believe that he would be good (by which, of course, I mean as a speaker, quite apart from the substance of what he has to say). In addition, he seems to me to be very far from genetics. He gives me the impression that he has accepted, only with difficulty, the concept that the blood group polymorphisms must involve selective advantages and disadvantages and that, as it were, he feels it a pity!

With best wishes,

Yours always,

