

9th March 1934.

Dr. E.B. Ford,  
Department of Zoology,  
University Museum,  
Oxford.

My dear Ford,

Many thanks for your letter. I have asked that the Meeting should be called for Thursday next, at this department, where the Population Society will be meeting for tea later in the afternoon.

I am very glad indeed to have your views, and especially to find how closely they agree with my own. I have a point in the Agenda designed especially to bring the question up, and hope that you may feel able to draft an amendment on the lines you suggest, and what is equally important, to be able to justify what you feel in discussion with a group of persons who may not have given any special thought to the point, or who approach it from a different standpoint.

Do you remember that you were going to consult Goodrich about coming here? On the strength of the Eugenic Society subvention to the Annals I have now got the Academic machinery started for creating a Readership, at £800 per year, in this department.

I had suggested the title of Reader in Biology, but find the Provost prefers Reader in Human Biology, lest an appointment to which all Biologists ought to be invited to apply should be criticised if offered to only one individual. Naturally I should like to know if you find this title tolerable, in view of the fact that I regard experimental genetics with lower organisms essential to an understanding of the genetic situation in man.

As regards pay, I think I explained that at the status of Reader I have no claim on the College for salary increments. Such increments as are given to Readers and Professors are allotted by a body in which all departments are represented, in which I presume, the claims of other departments are usually paramount. There is, however, a margin in hand out of which I might aim to do either, or both, of two things for the genetical side of the department. One, the provision of a genetical assistant, and the other, later increments to the Reader's salary. I am afraid I am not in a position, however, at present to make any promises.

Owing to my present Secretary leaving, I have just appointed to this post a girl, Miss S.B. North, with a degree in Botany from Bristol, and I fancy quite capable of becoming a useful genetical assistant. At

first of course she will have to give most of her time to mastering the secretarial work, but I hope by the end of this academic year she may be showing some capacity on the genetical side, If so it should be possible after a time to release her whole time for assistance in the genetical work.

If you could spend part of the morning here on Thursday the 15, before the Family Allowances meeting, I should greatly enjoy discussing these points with you. I am lecturing from 10.45 to 11.45.

Yours sincerely,