

7th October, 1959.

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My dear Otto,

You may recall my giving a talk on Natural Selection from the Genetical Standpoint, at the Centennial Symposium of the Origin of Species. This was to be published in the Australian Journal of Science.

I never received any proofs but thought perhaps these were not needed since the typescript I handed in was in perfect order. On my return from New Zealand, I have received a packet of offprints with this title and purporting to be my address. Large sections, however, have been omitted and the point has been taken out of several of my observations.

The omissions appear largely to be deletions of the actual evidence I adduced by quotation from the authors in question, such as Darwin and Mendel. The omission of the quotation from Darwin is particularly unfortunate since several writers this year, such as Rieseher in the National Academy and Darlington, have attacked Darwin's good faith on obviously bad evidence. To me the course of Darwin's thought seems perfectly clear, though it took some years of study for me to find it so. To represent him as changing his opinions for ulterior motives is very wide of the mark though undoubtedly he was inclined to try to see both sides of the question and expressed as plausibly as he could the opinions of others to whom he attached weight, even though he did not accept them.

It looks as though the editor had taken, in my opinion unusual liberties at the expense of an author and had quite forgotten the aphorism that facts

(contd.)

are sacred though comment is free. I should, of course, like to know who he is for the offprints are practically useless to me.

I am enclosing a copy annotated as to the omissions.

Sincerely yours,

R. A. Fisher