

24th April, 1958.

My dear Ruggles Gates,

How nice to get your letter. It really is pathetic the way Wiener struggles on thinking he is saving his face and all the time blackening it. For, more than twelve years ago he would have been accepted throughout the world as the leader of serological genetics in the United States; and now, by no one's actions but his own, he is just a byword. No one expects anything from his numerous letters and short articles except controversy on a dead issue.

Yes, my paper of 1918 in the Phil. Trans. of the Royal Society of Edinburgh was a serious effort to show that the biometrical results were not inconsistent with Mendelism, as Pearson had vociferously claimed. It had been communicated to the Royal Society the year before and was very properly referred by that Society to Pearson as the leading biometrician, and to Punnett, my predecessor in Cambridge. Pearson was very angry at any attempt to justify Mendelism, and Punnett thought the intrusion of so much mathematics most undesirable. I expect the only question on which these two men ever agreed was in turning down my paper! However, in the kindly way that time has, I succeeded each of them in turn in his University Chair, and this story I find an encouragement to young men who have difficulties about publication.

It is excellent that you are coming to England, and I do hope you will contact me here in Cambridge. I, also, shall be unable to go to Montreal as I am going to India and Australia at the end of this year.

Sincerely yours,