

9th October, 1956.

My dear Ted,

It was nice of you to think of writing me such a long letter from Kalgoorlie. I am very sorry that now you find it impossible to fly over and take part in the discussion in London. When in Australia I constantly represented to the C.S.I.R.O. that a major need of Australian scientists consisted just in facilities for making, from time to time, quite long and expensive trips.

For my own part I have no particular intention to talk at this meeting. I am, however, a little concerned that your own early work on the Deccan Traps shall receive the credit due to the great importance of this finding, though it is still more important that your recent work in Australia should be adequately set before the meeting.

I like your description of the Nullarbor Plains. I suppose the surface is the result of interminable aereal erosion, and that it has been worked down to Pre-Cambrian whatever may have been on top of it originally. The blowholes must be most entertaining, but you do not say whether your mice are the kind which are imported with grocery stores for miners, or whether they are

perhaps the so-called "Marsupial mice", with which I should very much like to see some studies made. I think I have heard of Kangaroo tail in the States, but I cannot easily imagine rabbit being any great delicacy there. However, perhaps it is in South America or the Caribbean.

I have been amused by seeing a number of American references to polar wandering, in which it appears to be taken for granted that the pole is fixed relative to the central mass of the earth, and that the pole can only move over the surface by stresses capable of wrenching the surface over the underlying material of the core. I imagine this is due to a misconception that the fixity of the pole of rotation in the heavens, (as a consequence of the conservation of angular momentum, and setting aside such calculable effects as are produced by the action of external heavenly bodies,) implies some sort of fixity relative to the main mass of the earth.

Of course, if this were so the same stresses would be needed to produce <sup>the</sup> ~~an~~ observable nutation!

Sincerely yours,