

21 May 1934.

Professor E.W. MacBride, F.R.S.,
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South Kensington,
London, S.W. 7.

My dear MacBride:

Thanks for your letter and your valuable promise of support. This last week a beautiful case has turned up. I had only two crested birds from last year, a cockerel and a pullet, and had not much hope of getting homozygotes this year, but eleven hatched out in one brood a few days ago, and the homozygotes (three of them) are immediately recognisable at hatching, by a marked cerebral hernia, which altogether alters the form of the head.

Cerebral hernia has long been recognised as a recessive and Davenport states that it is only found in crested breeds. There seems, however, to have been no idea that it is only a manifestation of the crested mutation when homozygous.

Once this is recognised, it is clear that the mutant Crested, is more nearly a recessive than a dominant, for the homozygotes can be recognised at hatching whereas it will be four or five months before the crests appear.

I am rather afraid of the chicks with hernia dying, especially when they are old enough to be frightened when caught, so if you could manage it, it might be worth while making your visit early; coming again later in the year, if you could spare a few days.

I do not know when Morgan is coming so you will almost certainly not clash.

Yours sincerely,