

30th June, 1941

Dear Mather,

I have just had a talk with Haldane on the correspondence between Harrington and Catchside, and he thinks that, later in the Summer, we must have a Committee meeting particularly to draft what Harrington calls "the views of your Society on the general question of the maintenance of these stocks", views which, I presume, will not be confined to Drosophila.

If we are to get anything done at such a meeting, it will be necessary to circularise the Committee in advance on the actual current proposals and questions arising therefrom.

I myself feel that a permanent organisation is necessary, to which the individual geneticists, dealing either with plants or animals, might reasonably look for assistance when, by any accident or change of circumstances, stocks of potential future value to genetics are threatened. The only suitable body to take the initiative in this matter is the Genetical Society; but, in view of the kind of cooperation which such a body might need, it would, I imagine, be valuable to have representatives of the Royal Society, e.g., two or three Directors or Curators of the Botanic Gardens, associated in one Committee, which might seldom meet, but would have

to report regularly on its activities.

The kind of assistance in plant genetics which could easily be given, and could, I think, be obtained by such a tolerably weighty Committee, would be not unlike the assistance which you obtained from the Chelsea Physic Garden for my Lythrum work, i.e., a little land and routine labour, which, under the supervision of the beneficiary, would often suffice to keep the material going. Without such supervision these stocks would often come to grief, and the Botanic Gardens concerned would be not very wise to accept them.

However, I am ^{only} here putting forward my own general ideas. I am concerned that what we father should be of general use to genetics, and to the particular cases, the circumstances of which we cannot now foresee, rather than an ad hoc scheme to meet anyone's particular need at this moment.

Any monies now allocated would presumably in the first instance be administered as a war emergency, but I do not see why the framework of procedure we establish might not be of permanent value in peace times.

Yours sincerely,