

September 25, 1939

Dear Provost,

I have received your letter of September 23rd, and am astonished at the complete reversal it contains of the proposal we discussed of finding accommodation for the department at Rothamsted.

You say in your fifth paragraph: "It must be clearly understood here that the College can make no provision for the transfer of your staff to Rothamsted". If this means that you are determined that there shall be no working space for them there, or that they shall be forbidden to carry on the work of the department there, the proposal of a move to Rothamsted may now be abandoned, since it would not fulfil the only requirement for which it was intended.

Your last paragraph appears to imply that the motive underlying your treatment of this department, which in other respects is to me inexplicable, is solely to find grounds for relieving the College of the financial burden of their salaries. I am unwilling to cooperate with you in this.

As I understand the position, my department has the right, in spite of the so-called evacuation, to continue to use the premises assigned to it, and to receive supplies of water, gas and electricity needed for the continuance of its work. Meanwhile, if this involves the College in any loss or inconvenience, I am willing to consider any alternatives by which such inconvenience can be minimised.