

May 19, 1941

Dear Provost,

I have your letter of May 15th.

On March 10th I reported that Fabergé and Stevens were both leaving the Department, having obtained war work, and enquired whether the College was willing to make an appointment of any kind in their place. You now tell me that the College is unwilling to do so, which is what I had supposed from your not replying previously.

I cannot understand that you should see any connection between this decision and the threat of dismissal at the end of the current year which has recently been issued to Miss Simpson and Mrs Holt. You say: "To take Miss Simpson or Mrs Holt back on to the staff at the present time would, of course, be the equivalent of adding another member to the staff and so would be inconsistent with ~~that~~ the commendation". Frankly, there is no equivlence at any point; Miss Simpson and Mrs Holt are at present in the employment of the College, so that there can be no proposal to take them back. In spite of every effort they have been unable to obtain war work, so that there is no proposal at present of finding a substitute for their services. You have proposed to dismiss them at the end of the Summer, and to this I object that it is harsh and unreasonable; that

they have given no cause for dismissal, and that the College possesses money already allocated to the use of the Department which could carry on their employment, at least for some further time.

It may be that, when no particular injustice is done thereby, the College has been freed to apply Trust funds to new purposes. In this case there is from the current year a surplus of approximately £160 beyond what is needed for Miss Lucka's salary, in addition to the corresponding surplus for the coming year, available to meet the salaries of Miss Simpson and Mrs Holt from October next until such time as Munday may be called up. After this time a further £3 a week will become available.

In these circumstances there appears to be no justification for the two dismissals you have in view from the Galton Laboratory, whatever may be the circumstances in the two other Departments you mention.

Yours sincerely,