

7th March, 1958.

My dear Arthur,

Thanks for your long letter on the proposals I sent you on February 17th. Of course I should like to include phenylthiocarbamide, secretion, and Daltonism, at least, in any such survey, though the collection of saliva and, in less degree, tests of colour vision do offer some additional difficulties, and it might be proper to confine attention to what can be learned from the blood.

I should not like you to think that at the Galton Laboratory I did not record the smoking habits of the students tested with phenylthiocarbamide, and of course in those days also we put in quinine as a parallel. Kalmus often talks about the work he will do, or has done, but he does not often do any. There was no association of many hundreds of students between smoking and the phenylthiocarbamide test, and if there had been any it would no doubt have been ascribed to the smoking, like cancer of the lung, but not on any clearly justifiable basis. However, from the point of view of the Tobacco Manufacturers' Standing Committee, I think I can say that they would not be particularly interested in any association with the taste test just because it is capable of this dual interpretation. They would, I believe, be interested sufficiently to give financial support on an adequate scale to work capable of testing whether in the general population as it is, the smoking classes are, or are not, genotypically differentiated. I am sure it would not matter to them whether this

differentiation were due to Irish or Jamaican immigrants bringing with them different smoking habits. After all, Irish and Jamaican patients were not excluded from Hill and Doll's lung cancer study. This, however, is no reason against recording, and for special purposes tabulating the racial origins of donors.

John Fraser Roberts suggested that the work could be done in conjunction with Aird and company in the hospitals. I do not believe this is right, but that a much better approach could be made through the Blood Transfusion Centres using new, and therefore unselected, donors so far as they are available. Of course I do not know how many centres are so well organized, or run by so keen a chief as Walker here in Cambridge.

As regards the allocation of interests, I, of course, have always urged and pressed for the collection of family data. I could certainly put this as a desideratum before our financial supporters, recognizing that this was not particularly what they wanted to pay for, but that they might be willing to pay for it for the sake of what else it could supply. On the other hand, their interest in obtaining an unbiased representative sample of the population does seem to coincide closely with ethnographic desiderata, and it was that that made me write to you in the first instance, for any such research would, I believe, not only carry properly more scientific weight but would be intrinsically better designed and conducted if you cared to undertake any responsibility in its direction.

Why not come and lunch with me sometime soon here in Cambridge so that we can go over the correspondence so far accumulated?

Sincerely yours,