

9th February, 1956.

Dear Mr. Osborne,

I have received your manuscript and can look at it in detail if it is offered for publication in Heredity. Dr. Greenwood does not, however, make this quite clear in his covering letter, and as such an examination is on occasions a little troublesome, I should not want to carry it out unless this is actually your intention.

The method you have used is, I think, a good one, for I remember suggesting it to Dr. Lerner many years ago when visiting his poultry experiments. From what you say he has never carried it out thoroughly, and the purpose of your paper is to do so. Naturally, therefore, I think such a publication worthwhile.

"Heritability", as used by Wright, seems to me a rather questionable term which may mean no more than the ratio of a very relevant quantity, the genetic variance, taken as numerator, with the complex aggregate, namely the total variance, which is greatly influenced not only by the genetic situation in the flock

examined, but by the technique of observational measurement as denominator. If this is its meaning here, it would perhaps be better to use, wherever your ideas are sufficiently important to need getting across clearly, some more definitely recognizable term.

Yours sincerely,