

27th October, 1955.

My dear Walter,

It was the greatest pleasure to get your letter and to hear a little of how you are getting on.

I am delighted to learn that the kind of course which I have come to be in the habit of giving for my Part I students, is likely, with appropriate modifications of course, to be suitable for your own students.

With respect to Mendel's original Pisum paper, it is remarkable how easily the purport of his own foreword has been overlooked, for if once one clears one's mind of the idea that his paper is going to be a report of one of the biggest single discoveries in the history of biology, it is obvious that what he is saying is that he has a contribution to offer on the methodology of breeding experiments, and that the particular results obtained in Pisum are set out chiefly as an illustration of the sort of clarification that the right method of research will bring about.

In fact one might guess that it only dawned on Mendel when he was proceeding to discuss his results with the garden pea varieties in relation to the results reported by the early plant hybridizers, that a similar system of transmissible agents would at least partially explain their results also. I should guess he felt free to speculate so far as this only on the understanding that of course he intended each case to be investigated on its own merits, using the improved technique of the investigation

which he was concerned to suggest.

I hope your autumn is nearly so beautiful as ours!

Sincerely yours,