18 January 1933.

Dr. H.G. Thornton,
Hall Place,
St. Albans.

Dear Thornton:

Yes, we are free from flu so far. What very bad luck to catch it just on your departure. [S.] Bartlett and I gave evidence yesterday to the Economic Advisory Council Committee, but we only discussed the nutritional evidence, not the question of contamination. I enclose [<P 92] a dozen of the letters to Nature, as a Committee could scarcely get the force of the evidence without having a chance to consider it individually.

I have been expecting the serpent to slough its skin, but in the weak potash I am using, this has gone on slowly. I think that his skin must be very thin at least compared to the horny epidermis of a hen's foot. I was at first anxious to make sure that the skin had not excluded the dye, as it does to a large extent with the feet, but I feel pretty sure that it got well in. Patches where he was pressed against the glass are not dyed at the surface, but one cannot tell yet if this involves any parts of

ribs. He is still considerably swollen. Shall I bring him over?

The idea of a properly run experiment appeals to me considerably, but I do feel the lack of a groundwork of good human experimentation to base methods on. It sounds easy to choose groups at random to receive raw or pasteurized milk, and to avoid the error of measuring in boots or shoes. Weighing has to be in clothes, and in other ways is less satisfactory than growth in height. The test between treated and untreated milk should be considerably easier than that between milk and none, for I suppose it would be inevitable, if in the same family John got milk at school, but Jim got none, for any length of time, that it would be partly or wholly made up to Jim in other ways. The point most worth attention is the making sure that in the same school, some always got pasteurized and some always raw milk. Distribution to two different groups in different rooms would probably be needed, but this will not always be feasible. A kind of show-your-ticket system ~~or~~ so that a red ticket gets a red glass would be workable, but rather costly in apparatus, i.e. 50 red and 50 blue tumblers.

The period of the experiment is important, and I am

sure should be one complete year, though if the cost of the milk is to be a limiting factor, one might distribute it over a number of schools so that only 5 were going at any one time. However, it is still early to talk of design.

Yours sincerely,