

15 November 1932

Major L. Darwin, Sc.D.,  
Cripps's Corner,  
Forest Row,  
Sussex.

Dear Major Darwin:

I should only read Morgan's new book if you are tempted by curiosity. It seems to me a most interesting example of the way in which a man directly responsible for real scientific advances should retain old concepts and arguments which these advances have really made obsolete. This shows up in the way he speaks of the "Mutation Theory" of de Vries, as though it were a theory of evolution to be considered as an alternative to Natural Selection. De Vries speculated upon the origin per saltum of specific forms, and the Drosophilists have shown that a single species shows many hundreds of mutational variants. But Morgan seems to argue that the occurrence of these mutations supports de Vries theory, as though all evolutionists from Lamarck and Erasmus had not postulated <sup>mutations</sup> entities, i.e. heritable changes, to have taken place. In fact much of

Morgan's book though avowedly based on the *Drosophila* work, might have been written, (and, in effect probably was) in 1905.

Yours sincerely,