

5 December 1930.

Major L. Darwin, Sc.D.,
Cripps's Corner,
FOREST ROW,
Sussex.

Dear Major Darwin,

I do not quite know if you will see my point, but I think it would be entirely useless, even if the facilities were offered, to commence research on Man, until (i) the possibility of demonstrating a single gene had been demonstrated in some other species, and (ii) considerable experience had been gained as to the different reactions of different genes.

Only on this ^{basis} ~~view~~ would it be worth while to set out to build up a test for a specific gene in Man. In Man, too, it may be that a special technique will be needed to circumvent the known isoagglutinin factor, which has a relatively enormous effect, and may not be easy to cut out by "exhaustion". I hope, if you happen to discuss it, you will not mention human applications except as a remote possibility.

Half-pay, say £150 - £200 a year, would probably suffice to give Todd an assistant with a programme that would suit us. That is, if Todd would take him on. A lot would depend on his getting a sufficient mastery of the technique to prevent a set-back, if

Todd should retire.

I am sorry you are bothered with the Twitchin estate,
I suppose the loss will fall on the income from the mortgage,
or will it also affect the capital?

Yours sincerely,