

6th. December, 1929.

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

Dear Major Darwin,

I take your letter as a salutary dose of medicine, and by way of giving their proper weight to your points should like to discuss them.

The value to me of the hare - unfattened - consists of two items (i) £170 per annum increased salary, with a prospect of £250 more in 5 year's time (both less tax), (ii) the possibility that my work in mathematical statistics will be more valuable if applied to researches on Man. I do not really now lack opportunity to say anything I have to say about Man, but could perhaps reduce our present ignorance somewhat by designing and directing specific enquiries and studies in the subject.

My department ^{here} now has two research assistants of the status and pay of University lecturers, four laboratory assistants for routine computations and

clerical work, and a variable number, at the moment four voluntary workers, three of whom from Australia, Denmark and India, correspond to advanced students doing research, while the fourth is an American Professor, writing a text-book on Statistics. I have to consider whether a smaller organisation would make any useful headway in the problems proposed for the new research professor. Do you not think this should be considered early, if not before applying for, at least before accepting such an appointment?

Would you agree with me that at least about 50 your father had decided that there was little more to be done for the subject out of his own head, but that as a good theorist makes a good observer, so still more in experimentation, that there was a great need for well directed experimentation which should answer the problems, and consolidate the conclusions, at which he had arrived?

If this is so he was several generations in advance of his time, and in the absence of a ready supply of trained assistants, and under the restriction of working at his private expense, he was unable, without being unwilling, to set a much needed example of what a director of research should be. Were his experiments really any better, I mean more useful to himself and others thinking of the subject, than they would have been had he been in Sir Daniel Hall's place at Merton? I doubt it. The contribution of the inefficient gardener must chiefly be to destroy or mix batches of experi-

mental plants, and if one picks up scraps of observational information from his mistakes, are not the experiments of others, usually carefully published and open to inspection, a sufficient source of enlightenment of this sort?

I am glad you think well of the Registrar, it would seem to open out some attractive possibilities, on which I should be very glad some time to hear your opinion.

Yours sincerely,