

15th January 1929.

Dear Major Darwin,

I am answering your last letter piecemeal, so do not answer unless you feel so inclined. I now return the Galton letter, which I thought so interesting that I had it copied; so now I ask your permission to keep a copy.

It is perfectly true that village communities may be much isolated, but I wonder if Galton ever considered (or people like Fleure, who find "neolithic" villages, all over the place) how complete the isolation must be to be worth anything genetically

If only one in 10 filter in from outside in each generation, in seven generations half the population comes from outside and in 70 generations all but 1 in 1000. Isolation would be very extreme at this level, in the ordinary course of events, and catastrophic events, War raids, famine, plague, are not so uncommon as to be ignored in the case of ^{such} ~~each~~ habitual isolation.

King Solomon lived 100 generations ago, and his line may be extinct; if not I wager he is in the ancestry of all of us, and in nearly ^{equal} proportions, however unequally his wisdom may be distributed.

You see I shirked the problem of optimum mutability for asexual organisms, merely proving that there must be an opti-

mum. The problem has a very beautiful general solution in operative form, but I cannot make it manageable for any simple case. I will try again owing to its ^{importance for} applications to single loci, where I believe (at the optimum) most would be absolutely uniform; (at least apart from the rare defects always being eliminated); perhaps all loci, have a few lethals going.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) L. B. Huxley.

1 ENCLOS.

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