

June
28th
1928

Dear Major Darwin,

I return herewith the proof of your letter with one verbal correction and one query. I hope I may see you Friday morning.

If you remember my suggestion about the production of dominance by Natural Selection, you may be interested in a very striking confirmation which has since appeared in the Cotton plant.

There appear to be about four mutually fertile species of New World cotton, besides as many in a second group in the Old World. One of the New World species (Sea Island) produces fairly commonly (in pedigree lines) a mutant called Crinkled Dwarf which is a simple recessive as usual. This mutant has not appeared in the other New World species. Now the interesting thing is this, that when a Crinkled Dwarf is crossed to Peruvian or some other New World species, and the hybrid self fertilised, the F₂ progeny consists of every gradation of intermediate, with no clear dominance at all; and this is true of at least two of the New World species other than Sea Island.

The obvious explanation is that Sea Island has been modified so as to be dominant to the mutant, while the other species have not been modified in this way, and so the F₂ shows a mass of all stages in the development of dominance.

This is a far more direct demonstration than I had hoped for ; it is so far unpublished, and I only heard it through Hutchinson, a geneticist from Trinidad, who has been working here in my laboratory on genetical statistics.

Yours sincerely,

(y) A. E. F.

Majors L. Darwin ScD.
 Junior United Service Club,
 11 Charles St.,
 London,
 W. 1.