

Guady Hall
Bungh

Dec. 28th
[1925] J.H.B.

Dear Fisher

Thanks for letting me see this cor-
-respondence. There are two preliminary
remarks which I wish to make.

The first is that if our paid Secretaries had
not taken the initiative in large measure
in the past, very little would have been done
during the thirteen years in which I have
been President. I have therefore wherever
I could encouraged such initiative, and
this on the whole has paid. Some of this
research work would have come into being
I believe without Mrs. Hodgson's initiative.
If it had better not have come into being,
I and the other Officers must take some
blame; for it has been frequently mentioned
at Council meetings, and any of us could
have looked into it thoroughly at any time
we liked. I have always doubted the wisdom
of the Society doing much research work, &
my approval of her initiative has often been
lukewarm in this respect. But I did give

it, and I think we ought to fully recognize that if there is any merit in having got this work under weigh it is mostly Mrs Hodson's, and that if it has been steered in wrong lines we must share in the blame. Moreover as you are suggesting as it were the removal of her children from her direct care I think she has met you in a very commendable spirit.

The second point I wish to mention in confidence is that the reason why Cutler was objected to as hon. Secretary was that it was felt by the objectors that it would place the management of the Society too much in the hands of a Rothamstead group. Cutler has agreed that this was a genuine objection for he has known a case where such a state of things did produce harmful results. I am inclined to agree with this objection only to the extent that I hold that all committee meetings should be held at the head quarter offices.

You ask me to agree to your letter. No two people ever write a letter in the same time and had I written the draft I should have pressed more on the points I have mentioned in my just-paragraph. Of course I do not want you to alter your letter in this respect. Moreover I feel rather doubtful of expressing a final opinion until I have

discussed the matter both with Mr. Ledbetter and with
Mr. Hodson. It seems fair that I should hear what
she has to say. It is moreover a very strong action
in a precedent to do anything which looks like
forcing a Secretary on a Committee. You may however
say that - as far as I am now able to judge what
you have written has my general concurrence, pro-
vided the action proposed to be taken meets with the
approval of the Comtee.

As to Committee meetings being held in London
that need not now be specifically expressed. The
matter could be left open by striking out the word
"places" in your draft.

Ledbetter wrote to me the other day
and I hope to see him before the Council. He seemed
a good deal disturbed at the whole situation but
perhaps your recent interview with him has put
some matters right.

I shall probably write to you later on
concerning some points which you raise in your letter,
points which do not immediately affect your draft.

I am feeling life rather full, with a horse full
quests and my book as you know under way
so excuse me for wasting no words

Yours sincerely

Donald Dawin