

16th November 1933.

Major Darwin,
Cripps's Corner,
Forest Row,
Sussex.

Dear Major Darwin,

I realised that it was just a coincidence that yours about the American Society came just as I was rather bothered about the analogous situation in the English Society, but as it happened my views on the first question are largely influenced by what I heard during my two recent visits to the States. The proposal to abolish Honorary Secretaries, apart from other questions, puts the Society for the first time, I think for at least twenty years, in the position of having no active officer who is a professional Biologist. Cutler has been progressively alienated, though naturally very inclined to be helpful, during the last few years. I proposed at the last Council, speaking of what I had seen in America, that the Society had everything to gain by putting a number of Biologists on its General Purposes Committee, which in fact handles all detail matters of policy for the Council. To my surprise and regret great reluctance was shown from the chair (Bramwell) an attitude which I fear impressed all the Biologists present, which included Poulton, very unfavourably. After a long discussion, Gates and Thornton were added to the Committee,

and this I think is a step in the right direction, though they both must be strongly conscious of how grudgingly and unwillingly they were admitted. In fact I feel that the attitude of the small group of non-Scientific's which control the Society, much more than undid the good feeling I was aiming at. I hope to see Bramwell in the near future, and shall perhaps then be able to understand the attitude he adopted.

I do hope you will not bother yourself at all about this. If the Society goes to pieces or reduces itself to the status of the American Association, it will not be the end of Eugenics. The refusal of the Genetical Society that you refer to was due to the active hostility of their Secretary and the general indifference of most members of the Committee, I was on that Committee at the time, and had even won other members, being actively associated with the Eugenic movement, they would certainly have come in. It was I think simply a case of neglecting the need to gain the sympathy and active co-operation of those Biologists who are willing to help.

Yours sincerely,