

20 May 1933.

Major L. Darwin, Sc.D.,
Cripps's Corner,
Forest Row,
Sussex.

Dear Major Darwin:

I too, have a good many things that I should like to talk over with you, though some of them are not worth bothering you with. But for the prospect of giving more trouble than it was worth I could run down to Bognor for a night, so give me a word if you think it a good idea, treating my suggestion as you would have one of your own treated ^{by} from an old friend.

One thing you will be glad to hear. I had a letter the other day from the Provost of University College, telling me that at the suggestion of the College, the official committee unanimously invited me to stand for the Galton Professorship. I hope to discuss the situation with him quite soon. I am not yet quite clear what opportunities the post will provide as they have first, rather comically, divided off the department of Statistics, in order, I presume, to give Egon Pearson a readership. I think I could work tolerably amicably alongside of Egon, but can foresee the embarrassment that many voluntary workers now come to me, and would come as advanced students to

University College if I were there, just because they regard my statistical methods as having superseded Pearson's.

The chair includes a curatorship of ^{a museum of} Galtoniana which will interest me, (though I am a bad curator of my own possessions), ^{it} and must have one or two assistants, though I imagine at present no provision for biometrical work on living material, and I do not believe that students could fit themselves for research on man without quite extensive training on biometrico-genetic lines on some more manageable animal or plant. I do not know that you will agree with me at once about this; but what other hope is there, to take the best case, for an able graduate in mathematics who has but two years to spend at the place? His mathematical training will, from what I know of mathematical departments, have kept him abominably isolated, not only from biological facts, but from the whole mode of thought of an experimental science. He may be eager and clear ^{er} as can be at acquiring the algebraic development of the probability integral of my z distribution and never have a notion of what facts in experimental procedure to make sure of before it is worth applying a test of significance at all. Besides, I want to attract another class of advanced students that I have seen something of, i.e. people who are already biologists, geneticists and the like, but sufficiently mathematical to want to use the best available statistical methods

and biometrical ideas in their own work, and I shall never get the best of these without facilities for handling living material.

And then I won't give up my own chickens and snails and mice without a struggle, even if they aren't Eugenics they should do something to get sound Genetics into the heads of students who will certainly need them, and perhaps make a few sound biologists feel that a Eugenics Laboratory is not such a nest of cranks as they had been led to fear. So you see I am full of cheerful troubles and wish to heaven I could raise the wind to get Ford from Oxford, for I know he would like to work with me.

Yours sincerely,