

Department of Genetics

c/o

21 October 1943

My dear Henry,

Here is the promised abstract for the Genetical Society.

Yours sincerely,

THE RELATION OF GENETICS TO [PLANT AND] ANIMAL BREEDING.

If pure genetics is to play a rational part in the national economy, i.e. as supplying the guiding principles for the development of a technique adequate to the preservation and improvement of animals of use to man, thought will need to be given to the question of how far genetical departments and institutions can be content with a purely consultative role and how far they will have to play an executive part in the central or local administration of these activities. The circumstances are different in different species. In the case of man, and of species maintained, like greyhounds or bantams, for ^{purely} recreational purposes, it would seem sufficient if geneticists were equipped to carry out investigations aimed solely at improving the advice they are capable of giving to those who wish to consult them. In the two other cases which may be distinguished, namely those which may for brevity be called Useful ^{Animals} ~~Animals~~ on the one hand, and Experimental ^{Animals} ~~Animals~~ on the other, it would appear that plans should be laid with the ultimate aim that elite stocks should be maintained in permanent genetical institutions charged with the maintenance and improvement of such stocks and, in particular, with the testing and assessment of their properties in relation to the various purposes for which they are required.