

DEPARTMENT OF
ZOOLOGY AND COMPARATIVE ANATOMY,
UNIVERSITY MUSEUM, OXFORD.October 13th 1943.

My dear Ron,

I have thought of you a lot lately, though I have been so desperately busy with plates for my book and with the start of the Oxford term that I have not written. Have you started at Cambridge yet? - I do so much wonder; and, if so, how things are developing there. Are you living in College, I wonder: do let me know your address. You know how happy I am to think of you going there, and how eagerly I shall watch the development of your Department and of all that you do.

I had no idea when I settled down to this work what an immense job it is arranging the 72 plates for this book, especially when so many people are involved. 48 of the plates are coloured: those from life and those from preserved material are taken by different people, and 24 are black-and-white: again, several different photographers. Then there are "lay-out Experts", whose job it is to try to alter all one's arrangements for the home, and to require many letters before they

are finally convinced that they have to go back to each original plan. There are also two quite different publishers: those concerned with the illustrations, and the normal publishers - and they appear to be by no means in accord. There are also the Editors of the Series, including dear Julian, who occasionally makes a wild suggestion which shows that he has not at all understood the complex arrangements involved - but I am sure you can picture it all; and it is a great joy planning everything; but I wish it were not made unnecessarily difficult.

I do hope you are going to speak at the Genetical Society meeting. The date is Nov 17th (Wednesday) in the Linnean Society. The subject: "The Relation of Genetics to Plant and Animal Breeding". There are to be 10 speakers, with 20 minutes each. An abstract of from 200 to 400 words required from each speaker. The meeting from 11:30 to 5, leaving time for discussion. I expect it will be best for speakers to come on in alphabetical order. Please confirm if you can manage this and I can put out the programme.

Ever yours,

Howard