

19 January 1931.

E.B. Ford, Esq., M.A.,
16 Museum Road,
OXFORD.

My dear Ford,

Many thanks for sending me the offprint on Melitaea
ausonia, which makes an extraordinarily interesting short
paper. I do hope it will lead others to make similar
observations. I think I have not yet met H.D. FORD; is
he your father, or brother? The whole thing should do
much to call attention to the evolutionary effects of the
sub-division of a species into local groups, a subject
which is very obscure to me at present. In this connection
I wonder if you have seen Sewall Wright's review of my
book in The Journal of Heredity for August last? In spite
of its date it seems only recently to have reached this country
so in case you have not seen it I send the number herewith.
When you have done with it you might post it back to the
Eugenics Society, 20 Grosvenor Gardens, S.W. 1. whose copy
it is.

I am mightily pleased with Wright's review, because he
has read and understood the book so well, which is quite a

different virtue from agreeing with it. It is the first American review that I know of. I judge that he thinks I have overlooked a major factor in the effect of random survival in small isolated colonies; but though I see that it may be of special importance in some cases, and your Melitaea case is especially convincing of this, I do not appreciate how it can generally favour a more rapid progress in adaptive modification. Probably he will develop the view more fully later, when it will be possible to judge better how much weight should be given to it. I do not know if you have been able to form any opinion yet. Of course, I have no doubt of the general importance of local isolation, but at present I doubt if the adaptive modification of the species as a whole would in general be at all retarded by a complete mixture of every generation.

Yours sincerely,