

Nov. 5th. 1930.

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My Dear Ford,

I am exceedingly sorry to hear of your mother's illness, both your anxiety, and the many things to be attended to must cut into your work frightfully. I had been intending to fix the date for visiting you at Oxford, so your letter comes very opportunely. May I say Nov. 20 now, though of course you must feel free to put me off at the shortest notice.

I can reach Oxford I believe at 12.38, and presumably meet you wherever you like at about 12.50. I ought not to return later than the 6.5 from Oxford. The botanist is A. R. Clapham, M.A. now one of Tansley's assistants. I have told him that he ought to meet you, and if not otherwise that I hoped to introduce you some time; so he will know who you are if you drop him a note, and with luck should be free some time that day.

X About your paper for the American Naturalist, I am sure you are much too diffident. It <sup>raised an</sup> ~~seems~~ entirely new and important theoretical point, and indicates some existing observations which

can be explained by the theory, but which are certainly anomalous on any view that the <sup>recurrence</sup> occurrence of mutations is due to the inherent properties of the system of enzyme <sup>secretion</sup> secretions controlling development. I think it very important, and expected it to appear before my paper on Polymorphism. I suppose yours was submitted to some geneticist or biochemist who took an unnecessary time in considering it; but your point is just as fresh and valuable now as ever.

I think I mentioned that Hutchinson also had written something on the subject, and perhaps the editors wanted to print the two new contributions together.

I put up some snails (*H. portensis*) in pairs early this year, but only two lots have given broods, these seem doing well under intensive care in my drawing room. They should at least provide material for further breeding, though I fear I shall have to breed them indoors in the future, which I had hoped to avoid. Oldham gets big broods with *H. aspersa*, which is not polymorphic, <sup>and</sup> ~~or~~ has two mutants segregating independently, so the <sup>class</sup> linkage seems to <sup>be</sup> have no more <sup>universal</sup> in the group than is polymorphism.

Yours sincerely,