

February 26, 1940

Dear Julian,

I am sending on the enclosed sheet a note on the position of the Galton Laboratory, and on the kind of proposal which I think the Rockefeller Committee might consider, and which I hope to put before O'Brien when next I see him.

As regards affairs at the Zoo, I was really astonished to hear that a personal attack has been made on you, especially if one of the grounds is the accusation that the scientific activities of the Zoo have been neglected. My impression, on the contrary, is that from the time of your appointment they have been much encouraged, and I have reason to know that the influence you have always had in encouraging young workers to take up problems of importance has continued very actively into recent years; in fact this type of complaint seems to me entirely unintelligible. It is the last thing I can imagine any one who knew you bringing up as a ground of complaint.

Yours sincerely,

THE GALTON LABORATORY



The Laboratory has been turned out of its premises in the buildings of University College in Gower Street, but is continuing its work in rooms lent us at Rothamsted Experiment Station. The first intention of the College was, apparently, that the work should cease altogether, for my assistants were ordered not to continue their duties. It was finally agreed, however, that the Department might continue as such within the limits of moneys actually available from Galton's bequest.

These are at present sufficient to cover reasonable expenses. The difficulty I foresee is that when my lab boy is called up, as he is due to be this Spring, his wages as a College servant will not be available for me to pay an assistant to take his place. The same is true of other workers in the Department, though no other is immediately liable for service. A small grant of £100, or even £50, a year should enable me to hire assistance locally sufficiently to enable the genetical work with mice, dogs and snails to be continued in their present quarters.

The mice suffered heavily in their new quarters, owing to the severe Winter, but I think there is no reason why the genetical work should cease, apart from my difficulty about routine assistance.