

12 November 1931.

Prof. J. S. Huxley,
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My dear Huxley:

Thanks for your letter. I have not yet read your comments, which I shall enjoy doing, but I am answering at once about Moore in order that there may be no misunderstanding.

The Society had three or four years experience of Moore before deciding, 15 months ago, to establish him permanently as Editor, and to that end induced him to give up a perfectly secure position in the Imperial Bureau of Animal Genetics. During this last summer Pitt-Rivers and Mrs. Grant Duff seem to have got up a regular vendetta against him into which, as I judge from your letter, they must have drawn you, for you speak of "careful watching" and "proper control". I have been on the Editorial Committee since its inception and I can associate myself with Dr. Langdon-Down's statement that Moore has never, at any time, disregarded the wishes of the committee to which he is directly responsible. This is a good deal more than most people could say of their servants, of their children, or of their wives or husbands, whom they might, none the less, resent being spoken of as "out of control". That whole yarn is a myth put up to injure Moore without making any charge that can be answered.

Personally I have not only found Moore strict in his duty towards the committee but to show the very positive virtue of taking up suggestions. It often occurs that one makes a suggestion which is bound to involve a certain amount of work or perhaps some re-orientation of ideas, without there being any guarantee that quite unexplored difficulties will not prevent anything practical being done; and so long as we have a man with the brains and energy to respond in this way we shall have a much more effective control over the 'Review', than if it were done by an extra clerk working under Blacker allowed just enough initiative to decide that page 101 follows page 100.

As it is the attacks to which he has been exposed, most unfairly, because in no case were the charges submitted to the Editorial Committee for examination, will, unless he is encouraged a great deal, have gone a good way towards crippling his initiative; and you are one of the few men on the Council that I would count on to appreciate this. On the other hand, the suggestion to sack him seemed to me so abominable, really for giving Pitt-Rivers and Mallett a fairly well deserved bit of his mind, that I should have followed MacBride and dropped out of the Society had it come to that.

There's a whole good letter wasted over this miserable affair. However, Mrs. Grant Duff lately writes that she has metaphorically taken Eldon Moore to her bosom. Perhaps we shall all settle down like cooing doves.

Yours sincerely,