

15th. January 1947.

My dear Darlington,

I have just seen your letter of January 13th.

As to type I should like you to consider the convention adopted by the Journal of Genetics of using Clarendon or bold-faced type for genetic symbols. I do not know when this convention was first adopted, but it is represented by my recent offprints, and I think it a considerable gain to distinguish in text, table headings, etc. genetic symbols from other letter press, especially now that many genes take two letters of which the first may be a capital, so that you may write down Beck or Call without knowing it.

I think it is good to reserve italics for their universal application to Latin names or foreign words generally, but a difficulty certainly arises here in that the Americans would speak of a pink, sooty, roughoid female, without italics, whereas Wings, with equal consistency, might speak of a zebrinus maculatus male and would certainly use italics in doing so. How would it do to use italics consistently for the names of genes or loci even when these names are in the vulgar tongue and intended to be translated into German or Russian by geneticists speaking those languages, on the ground that within the sphere of influence of our own language we wish to use the word as a technical designation? e.g. I would speak of Dunn's Ruby in italics to designate a particular mutation, while reserving the right to speak of any mouse as ruby-eyed which

seemed phenotypically to deserve that description.

I should rather not use capitals for personal names which in the English convention are sufficiently distinguished by their initial capitals. My preference here is based on a dislike for introducing unnecessarily a typographical difference between scientific and other literary work.

As regards mathematical symbols, I should give Oliver & Boyd a free hand, as they have always done them rather well. In any case I am sure we ought to rely on general instructions to the printers, who are far more liable to carry them out consistently than we should be ourselves.

Yours sincerely,