

20th. May 1946.

Dear Darlington,

Thanks for your notes which I have considered and write you now my first reactions thereon. Frequency of publication, format and title seem all rather to hang together. My impression is that a scientific journal to be taken seriously would have to conform to a standard based now on a great deal of experience and represented by the Journal of Genetics or the Annals of Eugenics. This means, at first at least, not more frequent publication than quarterly, though if good material became more abundant I think six issues a year would be almost ideal. We ought most certainly to encourage full illustrations on topics needing them, such as the plates of Lebistes and Peratsetix in the Journal of Genetics. Flower colours also are often very attractive.

For title "The Genetical Journal" has something to be said for it and would be particularly appropriate if the Society were associated with the publication, as I think they might reasonably be in a guarantee fund or small annual subvention, even if they did not go the whole hog and include subscription for the journal in the membership subscription.

As publishers we shall have to consider the Cambridge Press, which does publish the other journals, and I think we should also consider Oliver and Boyd, whose production seems to be uniformly good.

I think that short communications of the type that might go to Nature, if Nature were printing them decently and quickly, are a most attractive feature, and that reviews both of books and occasionally of foreign papers are most-attractive-features which readers turn to rather eagerly. I should let them occupy a variable amount of space in each issue, so that the editors can fill up a total of perhaps 100 pages, according to what is at hand. This makes for speed of publication, an immensely important point.

I do not think we should exclude strange tongues, but should advise authors that the very wide audience in the United States, quantitatively outweighing the rest of the world, will only readily read English. I think we should charge for separates at near marginal rates of cost and issue them simultaneously with publication. This does expose us to some parasitism, against which, if necessary, we can warn authors.

I should very much like to know just how much responsibility you would like to ask the Society to take.

On another matter, I am sorry to say that Salamun seems to be obdurate about the Presidency. I believe now that we could scarcely do better than to get Cockayne for the next few years, as this would be a becoming tribute to his prolonged genetic work, which has not been very much appreciated. Of course, I know he is a bit foggy about linkage, but we do not need a president to keep us on the rails technically.

Yours sincerely,