

January 16, 1947

Dr. M. Demerec  
Department of Genetics  
Carnegie Institution of Washington  
Cold Spring Harbor  
Long Island, New York

Dear Dr. Demerec:

I received the proof of both Lindegren's paper and my own and have been working on these steadily in every available moment since they arrived. After as a careful an examination of Lindegren's paper as I could make in the length of time available and after careful reflection upon it, it seems to me that the criticisms which I made orally at the Conference are still in the main applicable. Believe me I have been particularly cautious in coming to this conclusion because Spiegelman expressed to you and to me his judgment that Lindegren's revisions made my criticisms largely inapplicable. I am at a loss to understand how he could have made such a judgment.

I am sure you will recall that there was a very vigorous opposition to Lindegren's views at the Conference and I am sure that there would still be vigorous opposition to the paper as it now stands. It seems to me, therefore, that we would be giving a false view of the reaction of the Conference by permitting Lindegren's paper to appear without some indication that there was such opposition.

I have, therefore, rewritten my criticisms, condensing them as much as I thought could be done, and am enclosing them with the proof of my own paper. I am counting on you to stick by the promise you gave me that I would have the privilege of inserting my criticisms at this time if I still felt they were needed, and I do emphatically feel they are needed.

In going over my own paper and the discussion of it I found to my amazement that there had been inserted an additional paragraph in Altenburg's discussion, a paragraph embodying ideas which he did not mention at Cold Spring Harbor and which I did not know were to be printed in this volume. I, therefore, feel that I must answer the point he has raised which seems to me completely absurd. I am, therefore, sending you also my answer to that point with an indication on the proof where this page should be inserted. I am sure it must have been an oversight somewhere along the line not to have sent me this revised edition of Altenburg's criticism. It would seem to me, therefore, either that the paragraph in question should be deleted or that my answer to it should be inserted. I should like to see it the latter way. I do not know what is the proper thing for me to do with the two new materials I am asking you to insert. It would seem to me only proper that Lindegren and Altenburg should have the right to see these replies, but I do not want to usurp your judgment in the matter and so I am depending upon you to see that they reach the people you think they should reach.

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I hope that your plans for the Naturalist's Symposium will work out to your satisfaction. If there is anything I can do to help you in making your plans, you know I will be only too glad to do what I can. I should, in fact, like to know how your plans develop for it is quite probable that what you do will, to a considerable extent, determine what I do the following year.

With very best personal regards,

Cordially yours

T. M. Sonneborn

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