

18/8/52

Dear Hayes,

Thank you for your letter of August, 14th. I am just back from my rather short vacations, which have not converted me into a highly aggressive adversary, so that your fears are not fully justified. My own point of view is that, in the whole story, F+ is almost accidental, and that donor and acceptor are almost-synonyms of male and female gametes, but I would not dare to use the former or the latter symbols for K-12, at least at the present stage of experimentation. I am still convinced that your sentence: "this effect of F+ on the phenotype of segregants invalidates much of the evidence for genetic linkage in K-12" may have to be altered, especially in view of the type of evidence contained in table 2 of our paper. However, we obviously need new facts before we can build a theory, and at least I have given up the hope that a hypothesis put forward at this stage has many chances of lasting long. But this is a personal opinion. Perhaps the discussion that will follow our papers may help to throw some light on the whole.

It is exceedingly kind of you to undertake all the trouble of correcting our paper. I wonder what the Editors mean by re-planning, I hope they do not mean a work as formidable as the word seems to imply. If it is only Ponte who must be satisfied with it in the end, perhaps he may explain it to us with more details at Pallanza. I am usually appreciative of the critical work done by Editors, so that I do not mind any kind of reproach on their side, except that in this case the work of mending happens to fall on your shoulders and I am very sorry to add some extra trouble to the ones you must already have. Otherwise, the plan you suggest is all right for me; meanwhile I shall have the explanation of table 2 extended and clarified, and the table retyped in ~~five~~ copies for the new paper. I think it would be impossible to let Joshua know about the final draft before it is sent to the Editor, but I hope the correction need not be too radical, and in any case he has a chance of knowing about them before the proofs come.

Unless I am prevented by some unexpected nuisance, I shall have the pleasure of meeting you both at the station on the morning of the 1st. We should, however try to dedicate evenings rather than days to ~~work~~ the correction of the paper,

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as it would be very unfair of me to ask you to spend your
free time in Italy on the job of correcting ~~the~~ paper.
Yours sincerely