

20 July 1934.

My dear Huxley,

Yours news is splendid, and I am glad you forgot me in such a good cause. As you are interested in Gross, I should like, to put to you an idea which has crossed my mind, which might, perhaps, suit him and be to the general advantage.

I expect you know something of Lowndes' work with various small Crustacea. It appears to be undeniable that the systematics of several of these groups is in chaos simply, as Lowndes claims, through lack of testing the living material by breeding it, i.e. numerous variant forms have been named which in the opinion of other systematists are normal variants of a wide-spread species. It seems obviously a case where type specimens are useless, and should be replaced by type cultures, in the hands, not of the Museum, but of the Zoo. Such cultures would need relatively little space and cost to maintain, and Gross is an available expert on culture technique, with the added advantage of being a keen experimentalist. What occurred to me was that, if all went well, as it seems to be doing, the Zoo might create a permanent research appointment with a view to the study of this group and to making available reliably identified material for experimenters elsewhere. It

would be wise, I think , in such a departure to establish, in connection with such posts, small committees of Fellows to take an interest in and make themselves useful with respect to the work in progress. What do you think ?

Yours sincerely,