September 30th [1931]

One line to reply is
and wait — about McDowell's book

Dear Foster,

Shall I send you
MacDowell's book to review?

you must arrange with
more if necessary, do that

shall not be put on the
job. It is a school book,
not an original work, and
therefore does not, I suppose,
merit a long review. That
such a school book should
have been written is I
think a cheering circun-
instance. He makes some mistakes at which you will not be surprised. At page 168, for example, the industrial revolution was not caused by a rise in the birth rate, but rather by a fall in the death rate. I hold that the decrease in the birth rate has had little to do with taxation and a great deal to do with social ambition, which is a factor independent of the standard of living.
But there are many good things in the book.

You have understood what I meant about the sea
rice plants. But you must not trust to me in fact.

I was much interested and amused at Frad's
account of the British Ass
meeting. You need mind
it—no more than my father
need have minded the
Bishops' attack at the cele-
niated meeting at Oxford.

By the bye, I want
someone to write a little book like Ford's in Lemaître — not a long wrangle about Jack's, but a serious discussion on to how evolution could thus have been brought about. I have written out some notes, but shall myself publish nothing. Would it be worth while for me to try to incite Ford to write such a book? Or is there any other more capable man? I would rather incite any other rising crew to write such a book. Though I hope his bride's name...
would be mentioned as little as possibly, it might cause another row with him. Do you think I could move usefully anywhere in this direction?

You are right in thinking that I want to keep out of the more busy as much as I can. I feel that now I am very much of an outsider, it is both wise & right to interfere.
as little as possible in the internal politics of the
Society. I saw what there
is the circular you mention
& I wrote to Mallet about it.
Whether I was wise to do
I am not sure for I feel
much puzzled. The high opinion
I hold of you and Cutter,
Influence me greatly. My own unbiased estimate
of him is different in some
respects. Any how we must
Treat him fairly, and as long as
he is with us, he should have
a fairly good salary.
An estimated income in the
future keeps going down and
down and this fact must be held in mind.
Yours, J. D. ( penned 9/4/8)