Dec. 9th
1926

Guany Hall
Burgh

Dear Fisher

Thanks for letting me see this correspondence. There are two preliminary remarks which I wish to make. The first is that of our past Secretaries had not taken the initiative in large measure in the past, very little would have been done during the thirteen years in which I have been President. I have thought whenever I could encourage such initiative, and this in the whole has paid. Some of this research work would have come into being without Mr. Hodson’s initiative. If it had better not have come into being, I and the other officers must take some blame; for it has been frequently mentioned at Council meetings, and any of us could have looked into it thoroughly at any time we liked. I have always admired the wisdom of the Society during much research work, and my approval of her initiative has often been lukewarm in this respect. But I did give
it, and I think we ought to fully recognize that if there is any merit in having got this work under weigh it is mostly Mr. Hudson's, and that if it has been started in wrong lines we must share in the blame. Moreover as you are suggesting as it were the removal of her children from her direct care I think she has met you in a very commendable spirit.

The second point I wish to mention in confidence is that the reason why Cutter was objected to as her Secretary was that it was felt by the objector that it would place the management of the Society too much in the hands of a Hotham's head group. Cutter has agreed that this was a genuine objection for he has known a case where such a state of things did produce harmful results. I am inclined to agree with this objection only to the extent that I hold that all committee meetings should be held at the head quarters.

You ask me to agree to your letter. No two people can write a letter in the same turn and had I written the draft I should have pressed once in the format I have mentioned in my first paragraph. Of course I do not want you to alter your letter in that respect. Moreover I feel rather doubtful I express my final opinion until I have
discussed the matter both with Mr. Jealby and with Mr. Hudson. It seems fair that I should hear that she has to pay. It is unnecessary a very strong action in a precedent to do anything which looks like forcing a Secretary on a Committee. You may however say that as far as I am now able to judge that you have a matter has any general concurrence, provided the action proposed to be taken meets with the approval of the Court.

As to Committee meetings being held in London that need not now be specifically expressed. The matter could be left open by striking out the one word "places" in your draft.

Jealby wrote to me the other day and I hope to see him before the Council. He seemed a good deal disturbed at the whole situation but perhaps your recent interview with him has put some matters right.

I shall probably write to you later on concerning some points which you raise in your letter, points which do not immediately affect your draft.

I am feeling life rather full, with a house full of guests and my book as you know under way so excuse me for wasting no words.

Yours sincerely,

Leonard Darwin