February 27, 1942

Dear Dr Korenchevsky,

Thanks for your letter. I am returning herewith your supplementary typescript, but keeping the printed offprint, which I am glad to have.

As to the mouse colony, there are always about 120 matings current, with a population of mice which, of course, fluctuates very greatly since, according to circumstances, larger or smaller proportion may be kept on after they have been classified for whatever purposes they have been bred. For genetical work I seldom keep any mouse beyond one year, so that the maintenance of old mice in any numbers would be a new activity. I presume the type of investigation you have in mind might be carried out satisfactorily using continued fertility rather than continued living as a measurement of efficacy of treatment, which would be to test efficacy at a higher level of biological activity. This would be a type of observation much more manageable with stock which is primarily of genetical interest.

Another obstacle to work of some kinds is that there could scarcely be any thorough or complete control of dietary intake, as the constitution of standard foods, rat cake, bread, dog biscuit, would be liable to change perhaps in essential accessory substances.
Hence one would rely particularly on biological control afforded by untreated contemporary performance of other nearly related mice. This would not prevent the demonstration, if it were true, of such a fact as that a particular addition to current diet, without effect on the average fertility from three to ten months old, was significantly effective at the age of 1( - 15 months. I think this is the sort of possibility to be borne in mind in thinking of utilising material of the kind which my Laboratory already runs.

Yours sincerely,