21st May, 1954.

Dear Dr Walsh,

Thank you for your letter giving some data, which I find exceedingly interesting, on the incidence of \( R_z \).

I do not think one can be sure that variations in this incidence are solely due to variations in crossing-over, which, though possible would not be very easy to match in other forms of life rather than in variations in the survival of the products of crossing-over.

I do not know what sort of time scale you have in view for the evolution of different ethnic groups, but I suppose one must think of something like a thousand to two thousand generations. In such times the same actual supply of new recombinants \( R_z \) might give very different observable frequencies according to whether the selective disadvantage of \( R_z \) relative to, let us say, \( R_1 \) were one per cent or one per thousand in each generation. I do not think we can exclude the possibility that in Queensland a higher proportion of the \( R_z \) recombinants of the last three thousand generations have left representatives in the present population than has happened in, let us say, Fiji.

Sincerely yours,