Professor E.R. Wilson,
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School of Public Health,
Van Dyke Street,
Boston 17,
Mass., U.S.A.

Dear Prof. Wilson,

Thanks for acknowledging the book. I was wondering when the publishers would send out the complimentary copies. As you see, I wrote the letter to go with it ages ago. I am content to wait for your opinion knowing that you will not be tempted, as was one of my friends to glance at the preface (or but little more) and write with businesslike promptitude to say it was "the most important book on evolution of the present century," etc. Naturally the book will be most difficult to those who are so familiar with current phrases on the subject that it has all grown stale and meaningless. I believe Chapter I will interest you most. If you are surprised at my being so academically formal in proving the theorem in Chapter II my excuse is that the customary uses of the term Natural Selection are not only vague, but discrepant, and please imagine what theoretical physics would be like if we not only all talked about the second law of thermodynamics but meant materially different things by the phrase.

About the Population Union all that you say tallies with my own impressions. From my end it appeared that Pearl had gathered a very unrepresentative body of your countrymen, but there seemed reason to hope if, as was generally assumed, the financial position of the Union could be assured, that the defect would in time be remedied. I think we shall raise our quotum, but not with any enthusiasm, rather with a vague feeling of promoting international understandings, which will not survive if the Union is made a platform for lecturing the nations on their (doubtless deplorable) reproductive habits.

I am taking the liberty of sending your letter to Sir Bernard Mallet. You do not suggest that it is confidential, and I hope you will not mind, as I think he ought to see how it looks to you.

Yours sincerely,