

The Laboratory

Citadel Hill

Plymouth.

Jan 8. '89

My dear Spencer

It is a pleasure that I have  
to write to you now, often have I  
meant to, but other correspondence  
has been so heavy that I have put off  
& put off till I was ashamed.

Now to go straight to your letter —

Of course I am only too pleased to  
do anything that I can for you, &  
you must not think of indebtedness  
or anything of that sort.

But I am I must say very sorry  
that you have such a craving  
home — partly no doubt because



him a sort of vested interest in  
the chair itself when it became  
really vacant, determined to stand for  
the Deputyship. Besides him Hickson -  
the then occupant, Hoyle, Jackson &  
Beddard put in. Now it seemed to  
me & to many others that the Electoral  
board had one of two courses before  
them, either to select the best man  
they could get among the candidates -  
which was of course Laukeski - or  
to maintain the status quo by reelecting  
Hickson. They did neither the one thing  
nor the other but elected Jackson, & it  
is my belief that they meant to  
signify their future choice in electing  
him. If so it is most unfortunate.  
Much as I like & respect Jackson  
and value his help & friendship  
I don't honestly consider him to be  
the best man for the Lincoln Professorship

He has a damping influence on young students, and erudite as he is, his book love is somewhat oppressive to the beginner whilst he lacks the originality & freshness of thought which stimulate enthusiasm.

However the matter rests where it is. Lankester is still at University College, & there is no vacancy at present.

At the end of the year Gosley may be well enough to resign & then E.H. will go in for the chair. He may get it then and there will be a grand shuffling of the cards.

I do not think that Julius Marshall will stand for the Jodrell Professorship. It is ill paid compared with Owens College & I would advise you to put in for the Jodrell Professorship. Stickleton, Hoyle, Beddard & Weldon will all stand for it & the contest will be keen. I will keep your letter by me, & will

gladly undertake to do what you ask  
of me. My cable out to you as usual  
as I am aware of a worry. vacancy  
and on hearing from you I will see  
to our testimonials. As for calling  
by code signal I do not think  
it will be necessary to do more  
than telegraph after Queens  
London or whatever the vacancy  
may happen to be. I had it so  
I have the copy of your previous  
testimonials & you had better send  
me any new ones you may have.  
I have been hard at work here since  
June though I have not yet completed  
my last number of signals with  
I gave a small paper on Torosayia  
to the Press & lots of work half an  
& likely to remain in that condition  
for some time  
I have much enjoyed the Society of

Weldon here. He is about as clever  
as they make them. Very genial enthusiastic  
or only fails in trying to do too much.  
Alas! he is away at Cambridge for  
the next 6 months. He & I are about  
to embark on entirely new lines - but  
I can't explain them. It would take a  
folio. I affix it to say that we both  
have nearly leased our microscopes  
in prices before the Lord & have taken  
the measuring tape & tath of variation.  
We are not to be painted in Gough's  
Gough. He is running another  
among calls & fastness and savings  
work is being reflected. Nobody knows  
anything about heredity variation  
analogous variation under the  
conditions of perfect similarity  
under suitable conditions in the field  
of light & heat. or the influence  
of surrounding and so forth &  
nobody has known anything more



I liked your paper on earthworms  
Gippslandicus very much but sighed  
over Colonial lithography. You will  
have to run those Quarts transactions  
yourself. It is very good of you to  
think of me in the way of corals & skulls  
when you must have so much to occupy  
you. Lankester shewed me your chick  
drawings they are very good -

Perhaps you know that I possess  
a very fat son born on July 15 - his  
wife was very ill afterwards & could  
not come down here for 4 months  
but is now nearly quite strong again.  
Hoping you & yours are well,  
wishing you all happiness & prosperity  
in the new year I am

Ever yours

Albert Bourne