

Oxford.

Nov. 20th

My dear Spencer -

I was very glad indeed - to receive a fortnight ago the specimen of *Notoryctes* and now your letter.

I hope to exhibit the beast in the Museum alongside of other mole-like mammalia with comparison of not only general

form - but skeletal modifications. I shall be very glad to have any other things you are able to send - and you may rely on my gratitude & anxiety to do anything I can for you - in return.

The state of things in Oxford is very bad - as bad as can be. Nearly all the colleges are dead set on running their institution as a mere classical & historical upper class of a public school. They care nothing for University aims & Studies. Every year the

enormous sums have been spent and are spent on natural science! They rule everything: Elect Council - & veto or pass measures in Convocation & Convocation. This is an institution for the promotion of learning absolutely 'run' or governed by the most ignorant, prejudiced, juvenile abortions who are admitted (God knows why) to a share in its control. To have to do with this - to see it every day - to be thwarted by it and to try to conciliate it - is quite enough to drive any one mad. // To change the subject. I wish you would write from time to time to "Nature" about any new things you do or feel. And also say a say about such questions as "acquired characters." With best thanks Sincerely yours E Ray Lankester

men in power in the Colleges
become more god-forsaken
& contemptible priests and
pedagogues. Nothing can
save the situation except
a government Commission
which will make it law
that the branches of science
& modern study shall each
receive so many scholarships
& fellowships - & shall also
destroy by direct enactment
the school-master foolery
of college lecturing & tutoring.

We are probably some
years from this - and
meantime things are very
sickening - our museums
& laboratories are starved
whilst the silly schoolmasters
(tutors etc) go about saying that