Huxley Papers 4:59

New Buildings South Kensington May 11 1873

### My dear Foster

I have just had notice that our papers will not be ready till Monday the 19th instead of Saturday 17th of May. So we will meet at four o'clock P.M. on that former day. I judge from what you said that the new arrangement will suit you better than the old. Please to let Martin & Yule know.

We meet in my room. Ever yours very faithfully T. H. Huxley

## 53

Huxley Papers 4:60

4 Marlborough Place Abbey Road, N.W. June 27 1873

#### My dear Foster

I have not had any news of the Pendel myograph as yet. I have no doubt you picked the best!!

I am off on Wednesday next July 2.

Tuesday July 1. is the wife's birthday & it would be jolly if you could come & dine & have a yarn. Will Mrs Foster be coming up with you? If so, her coming would make it jollier. Formal invitation on the largest sized note paper sent if required.

I have been altering the Physiology programme a little. I want to talk to you about that among other things.

Ever Yours

T. H. Huxley

Glad to see Embryology [answered]

#### Huxley Papers 4:62

Most conundrumious of Archangels

What the do you mean by your delightful proof? Understand? No of course I don't.

It is past my powers of imagination to conceive of any proof being delightful – except perhaps a proof of your sanity or sobriety.

I don't suppose there will, or can be, any battle at the R.S. – as we will spare you for Oxenforde.<sup>2</sup>

Airy has conducted himself more causticaly than ever – we are well quit of him.<sup>3</sup>

Dorhn has written no line in reply to my letter which was a very important one.<sup>4</sup> I really wish that that good fellow Dew<sup>5</sup> would go & see what is the state of affairs. D. is a man capable de se bruler la cervelle if things got into a hopeless muddle.

Glad to hear about Martin but I will never announce a book again till it's ready.

Ever Yours

T. H. Huxley

Nov 28 1873

### 55

Huxley Papers 4:64

Dearly beloved

I have written to Brady – and sent him a letter about Hancock for publication. May it stir up the others.

Also signed Liversidge<sup>2</sup> Certificate with pleasure – It is inclosed.

Also told Lankester to tell you that I had heard from Dohrn. He objects to the subscription on the ground that his father would not like it. I thought he would.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Probably proofs for M. Foster and Francis M. Balfour, *The elements of embryology*, London, Macmillan, 1874. <sup>2</sup> An old form of "Oxford".

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> George Biddell Airy (1801–1892), astronomer royal and president of the Royal Society 1871–73.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Possibly sending Dohrn a draft of an appeal for funds for the Naples Zoological Station to be signed by Darwin, Foster, Balfour, himself and others.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Albert George Dew-Smith (1848–1903), zoologist, photographer and lens maker, see letter 60, note 1, and letter 102.

Also written to Dew to tell him that I had not ordered him to start for Naples at once as if I were a lusty General of the Jesuits – as an angelic voice had erroneously represented.

Also thanks about Griffith<sup>4</sup> – "Whatever thou doest unto one of these little ones is done also unto me".

Also we had a splendid Anniversary dinner at the R.S. on the occasion of Hooker's inauguration – the likes not known in the memory of the oldest F.R.S.<sup>5</sup>

Also Owen came & made a malignant ass of himself to an extent not known in the memory of the same senile party.<sup>6</sup>

Ever Yours

T. H. Huxley

Dec 4 1873

I sent Brady back Sir W. Armstrong's letter.<sup>7</sup>

### 56

Huxley Papers 4:66

My dear Foster

I put in the dates to the "record of my convictions" as well as I could last night – or rather gave them to my wife. But between us we forgot all about the School Board.

I was elected one of the members for Marylebone in 1870<sup>1</sup> and bore the brunt of the battles when the policy of the Board was being settled until the beginning of 1872 when as you know I collapsed.

I was Chairman of the Education Committee of the Board which settled the scheme of Education in the Board Schools.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Henry Bowman Brady (1835–1891), naturalist and pharmacist; Albany Hancock (1806–1873), a zoologist from Newcastle, had died in October.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Archibald Liversidge (1846–1927), a chemist at Cambridge was appointed to the University of Sydney in 1873 as reader in geology and assistant in the chemical laboratory.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Letter from Dohrn to Huxley, 26 November 1873 (*Huxley Papers* 13:252).

 $<sup>^4</sup>$  Probably George Griffith (1833–1902), science master at Harrow and assistant general secretary of the British Association 1862–1878 and 1890–1902.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Joseph Dalton Hooker (1817–1911) was president of the Royal Society 1873–78, and director of Kew Gardens 1865–1885. See *Oxford DNB*, vol. 27, pp. 963–968.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Richard Owen (1804–1892), comparative anatomist and palaeontologist, and Huxley's old adversary.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Sir William George Armstrong (1810–1900), armaments manufacturer and industrialist, elected FRS in 1846. See letter 183.

It will look odd if this is not mentioned and considering the large share it had in bringing me to grief – I think it should be.

Ever Yours

T. H. Huxley

Jan 11 1874

<sup>1</sup> See letter 30.

57

Huxley Papers 4:68

[Jan 13 1874]

My dear Foster

I shall be in town tomorrow evening (Tuesday) being due at the Metaphysical Club about 8. So I will look in upon you at the Savile Club between 6.30 & 7.

Ever Yours

T. H. Huxley

4 Marlborough Monday

58

Huxley Papers 4:73

South Kensington Feb 23rd 1874

My dear Foster

I am off to Aberdeen tomorrow and shall not be back until Wednesday week. Under these circumstances I need not say that I have just received the regular official letter about the May examination mildly requesting to have the questions by the 5th of March at latest. So there is nothing for it but to pack the whole batch off to you and beg your angelhood to have a lot of questions awaiting me by the time I return.

I shall hope that my Rectorial address will meet with your Honour's approbation but I

doubt if I shall be able show my face in Oxford or Cambridge after it. It's about "Universities actual & ideal" – and I have used the Aberdonians for the benefit of Oxford & Cambridge much as Tacitus drew the manners of the Germans for the benefit of the Romans. You & Lankester & Dyer are more or less responsible for the sting of one or two phrases.

I wish the whole business were over -I have a sort of blind catarrh & hoarseness hanging about me - and besides the address there are battles in the Court (that sounds Irish rather than Scotch, but I mean the University Court) & various entertainments to be endured.

With kindest remembrances to Mrs Foster Ever Yours very faithfully T. H. Huxley

<sup>1</sup> Inaugural address as Lord Rector of the University of Aberdeen (27 February 1874), 'Universities: actual and ideal', *Contemporary Review*, March 1874, 657–679; *Collected essays*, vol. 3, pp. 189–234.

59

Huxley Papers 4:75

4 Marlborough Place March 21 1874

My dear Foster

If ever there was a man badly behaved to in the matter of an answer you are.

But it so happened I could not give any time to meet you on Friday being up to my eyes in various things. I do not see how I can come to Cambridge on any of the days you mention except May 11. April 27<sup>th</sup> is my last working men's lecture – and on May 28<sup>th</sup> I hope to be going or gone into the country for a few days – What do you say to May 11<sup>th</sup>?

I got over my first working men's lecture very well on Monday & slept after it well – which is an improvement.

I had a letter from Grant<sup>1</sup> yesterday telling me that Dohrn is ill with fever at Naples. However he does not seem to think it very serious & he says that Dohrn is more cheerful than he has been.

Ever yours very faithfully

T. H. Huxley

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Charles Grant (1841–1889), literary critic and close friend of Anton Dohrn who was in Naples at this time.

Huxley Papers 4:182

Shelford [April 1 1874]

My dear Huxley

Enclosed are letters from Dew & Balfour.<sup>1</sup> After what B. says I think we may go on – don't you agree. One would perhaps have liked that the contributors to the sum might have some voice in the direction of the station so as to avoid unnecessary expense – but I do not see how that is to be managed. I gather from B.'s letter – that supposing Dohrn gets over present difficulties – the station even if the aquarium is not highly remunerative may pay its way, if the tables are hired or subsidized. It is worth making an effort to get such a place well started – even if investigators and students have hereafter to pay for working in the station.<sup>2</sup>

I send by book post

- 1. Darwin's original circular
- 2. The one sent from Naples spoken of by Dew & Balfour, evidently written & largely drawn up by Lankester.
- 3. A new one compounded out of the two drawn up by myself I did this because I did not like Lankester's at all & because Darwin's wants modifying to suit changed circumstances. You will see that I have omitted detailed money statements to meet Dohrn's wish expressed in Balfour letters I think we may do this fairly. If you & Darwin approve I will get it set up here & send you proofs in order to collect the signatures.

Ever thine

M. Foster

You can do what you like with Balfour and Dew's letters.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Dew-Smith and Francis Maitland Balfour (1851–1882), both from Trinity and former students of Foster, had research tables at the zoological station at Naples.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The financial state of the Naples station was in crisis and in need of urgent funds.

Huxley Papers 4:77

My dear Foster

We are off to Folkestone for a week and I have no time to read what you have sent, until I get there.

I will write thence.

Ever yours very faithfully

T. H. Huxley

4 Marlborough Place April 2 1874

## 62

Huxley Papers 4:78

4 Marlborough April 18 1874

My dear Foster

Hooray! Found your letter in a corner of a waistcoat pocket put there on purpose to remind me to answer it – toute of suite.

I did as I was told with the memorial – & sent it to you.

Martin<sup>1</sup> called in my absence & left draft of syllabus – I think I will get the depart. to print it.

Why not sleep here after the ophthalmia on Wednesday?

But I shall be at home any day but Monday & Thursday next week.

Will come to you on Saturday 9 May & stop till Monday morning if you will have me for so long.

Ever Yours

T. H. Huxley

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Henry Newell Martin (1848–1893), physiologist. He was initially Foster's demonstrator, and then from 1870 Huxley's assistant at the Royal College of Science. In 1876 he was made the first professor of biology at Johns Hopkins University in the United States.

Huxley Papers 4:79

The Royal Society Burlington House, London, W. April 23 1874

My dear Foster

We have just ordered Dohrn a hundred pounds (£100) from the donation fund for the "Stazione".

Put R.S. on your list of subscribers before the papers go out.

Ever Yours faithfully

T. H. Huxley

### 64

Huxley Papers 4:80

4 Marborough Place NW April 26 1874

My dear Foster

I sent one of the circulars on a fishing expedition to Whitworth<sup>1</sup> hoping that Armstrong's £80 might catch a similar fish. But the old boy is not to be landed so easily & he sends only a minnow in the shape of a cheque for £10. It is made payable to order to me so I sent you a cheque of my own.

I am very grieved about poor dear old old [sic] Phillips.<sup>2</sup> Better break your neck at 73 than drivel at 80 however.

Ever Yours

T. H. H.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Sir Joseph Whitworth (1803–1887), mechanical engineer. See Oxford DNB, vol. 58, pp. 786–789.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> John Phillips (1800–1874), professor of geology at Oxford, died after falling down the stairs at All Souls College. See Jack Morrell, *John Phillips and the business of Victorian science*, Aldershot; Burlington, VT, Ashgate, 2005, and *Oxford DNB*, vol. 44, pp. 120–122.

Huxley Papers 4:116

4 Marlborough Place NW May 2 1874

My dear Foster

My paper is light "On the morphological conclusions to be drawn from the distribution of the cranial nerves & especially of the seventh pair".

What you mean about Hooker & Belfast is Greek to me – I have heard nothing about the matter. But if it means that P.R.S. is to be V.P. of a section – I have my doubts about the propriety of it – from the Sec. R.S. point of view you understand. God forbid that from the T. H. H. Point of view I should care a pin about it. What Redfern has done to be President of D. I don't know – But Ireland like other forms of misery makes strange bed fellows.

I have received notes that the examination papers are to be ready by the 21st of May which is next Thursday fortnight – and I am to send a list of Asst Examiners.

Of course I reckon upon you & Martin – I write to him by this post.

I should like to have our first meeting on the 21st – say from four o'clock. But let me know before I fix it how that will suit you & Martin.

Ever yours very faithfully,

T. H. Huxley

### 66

Huxley Papers 4:81

4 Marlborough Place NW May 5 1874

My dear Foster

We will fix the meeting for Thursday 21st at 4 p.m. Please let Martin know. There will be about 7000 papers and I reckon at present on 1) yourself, 2) Martin, 3) Rutherford, 4) Ferrier, 5) Pritchard & 6) Parker Sen. as usual then I wanted to give Parker Jnr. a trial with

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Hooker was the president of the subsection of Botany and Zoology at the Belfast meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Peter Redfern, professor of anatomy and physiology at Queen's College Belfast, was president of the Biology Section of the meeting.

some elementary papers.<sup>1</sup> But it is very desirable to enlist a new man of a good cut and at the same time the examination is so late this year that I am afraid the paper will encroach on my time when the Biology Lectures which begin on 24th June are near – So I think the best way will be 1) to enlist Allchin.<sup>2</sup> 2) for you to give your elementary papers or some of them to Parker junr. 3) for you to take some of the Honours & Biology work off my hands.

If you agree will you write to Allchin & ask him to write to me if he accepts?

I suppose the reason you have not heard from Hooker is that he went away to Florence a week ago – I am sure that personally he won't care a fig what he does.

We – Regina mea et ego – shall be to the fore on Saturday. I shall have to bring down my paper in the rough & finish it chez vous.

I won't kill the Devonshire Cat – that's all I have to say.

I had a letter from Dohrn last night. He commits matrimony & goes to Stettin immediately.<sup>3</sup>

Ever yours very kindly

T. H. Huxley

I shan't see the forties again old man – I was nine & forty yesterday. As that swindling old patriarch observed "Few & Evil have the days of the years" <sup>4</sup> etc.

67

Huxley Papers 4:83

May 8 74

My dear Foster

Meeting on Friday May 22 at 4 p.m. instead of Monday – which is an R.S. Council day. Have arranged with Allchin.

Please let Martin know change.

See you tomorrow but send this at once lest I forget.

Ever Yours

T. H. H.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The neurologist David Ferrier (1843–1928); William Kitchen Parker (1823–1890); Thomas Jeffrey Parker (1850–1897).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> William Henry Allchin (1846–1912), physician who was later involved with the reorganisation of the University of London.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Dohrn married Maria von Baranowska in 1874.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Jacob's reply to Pharaoh when asked his age, Genesis 47:9.

Huxley Papers 4:84

South Kensington May 18 1874

My dear Foster

I am just informed that there are some 70 applications for schoolmasters to come up to my summer course – so we are going to enlarge the number admitted from 20 as at first proposed to 40 – Whereby I shall want a couple more demonstrators. Catch me a couple of your Cantabrians who have gone through the work with you & are nearly as possible made after the model of Martin.

Ever Yours

T. H. H.

The work begins on June 24th and I shall want them some days previously – say on Monday 22nd.

69

Huxley Papers 4:86

July 4 1874



Best of archangels,

My blessings for the hydrae on yourself & your devoted co-angel – though it is a great shame to rob your wife of her chance of cutting out the Abbé.

I shall be at South Kensington all day Monday & Tuesday and very glad to see Mr Wilson. I would ask him to dine with me but two evenings next week are yours & I can't have another.

Lankester<sup>1</sup> is thinking of going in for Newcastle Chair. Surely he would be just the man for it. Did you not suggest as much the other day?

Prime Brady.<sup>2</sup>

Ever yours

T. H. H.

<sup>1</sup>E. Ray Lankester was then fellow and tutor at Exeter College, Oxford.

### 70

Huxley Papers 4:88

Augt. 8 1874

My dear Foster

I hear from Manchester today that that [sic] Watson is appointed to Owens College.<sup>1</sup>

It was a very near thing – they asked my opinion (this is of of course between ourselves) and I gave a very balanced judgement with a slight inclination in favour of Watson on account of his having studied in Germany etc.

I am sorry for Wilson but it was a very difficult case.

Ever yours very kindly

T. H. Huxley

# 71

Huxley Papers 4:90

South Kensington

Augt 12 1874

My dear Foster

I thought I should be blasphemed with your usual violence for not doing better for Wilson & I am relieved to find things no worse.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>It is not clear whether this refers to Henry Bowman Brady (1835–1891), naturalist and pharmacist in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, or to his brother George Stewardson Brady (1832–1921), a physician, who became professor of natural history at Armstrong College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1875.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Morrison Watson (1846–1885) was appointed to the new Chair of Anatomy at Owens College, Manchester.

May the Vice Chancelleries come to a good mind & do the needful for the worthy Doctor.

I am going to Ireland with Tyndall on Monday morning.<sup>1</sup> We shall lie perdu quietly for a day & then come on to Belfast so as to be there in good time on Wednesday but not for the general meeting. There is nothing for either of us to do there.

I have read the inaugural and have suggested one or two omissions. I think it's very well done but Lord knows what will be the effect. I wish he had taken another line but having taken it the thing is to do what is done well and never mind language.<sup>2</sup>

You will think I am worse than he – for that Birmingham business<sup>3</sup> so cut into my time that I could not get the diagrams I should have wanted done and I was obliged to look out for another topic than development – so I have chosen "animal automatism and its history" – about the most awfully scabreux topic I could have selected.<sup>4</sup>

But I am burning to do justice to Descartes (whose name is not even mentioned in that great verbose book of Carpenter) & to Bonnet & Hartley and you shall see how I will dance between the eggs.<sup>5</sup>

I have had the Primer & it looks very good but I have had no time to read it.<sup>6</sup>

The girls came back wonderfully the better. My wife has written Mrs Foster [illegible] the [books] and I believe brings a counter charge!!

Ever yours

T. H. H.

## 72

Huxley Papers 4:92

Edgehill Culter Aberdeen Sept. 29 1874

My dear Foster

I send you seven teasers for the Fellowship Examination (your letter reached me only yesterday) I should not like to be away for the first three days of my course but I do not

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> British Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Belfast. Tyndall was president.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Tyndall's presidential address created a stir because of its espousal of materialism.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Huxley had delivered an address 'Joseph Priestley' on the occasion of the presentation of a statue of Priestley to Birmingham (1 August 1874), *Collected essays*, vol. 3, pp. 1–37.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 'On the hypothesis that animals are automata, and its history', delivered at the Belfast meeting, 24 August 1874. *Collected essays*, vol. 1, pp. 199–250.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Huxley discusses Descartes, Bonnet and Hartley in his Automata essay (see note 4 above). W. B. Carpenter, *Principles of mental physiology*, 1874.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> M. Foster and Francis M. Balfour, *The elements of embryology*, London, Macmillan, 1874.

see why I should not come down to Cambridge on the 8th – a swift Hansom will carry me to Gt Northern station<sup>1</sup> in 3/4 of an hour after I have finished my lecture at South Kensington which is more than I could depend on the underground doing. But I shall have to get back that night.

I cannot quite fix this till I return as I do not know what may be awaiting me in London. But if you will arrange for viva voce on Thursday afternoon – I will come unless you hear from me to the contrary.

I am rejoiced to see Rutherford's election announced this morning. Cleland & Pettigrew seem to have been nowhere – which is in accordance with the fitness of things.<sup>2</sup>

I have been idling thoroughly & have not the least notion what I am going to say at Manchester.<sup>3</sup> I am sorry I shall not meet you there but you will escape the infliction of empty talk.

Ever yours

T. H. Huxley

That is the worst signature I ever wrote – quill pens!

<sup>3</sup> The opening of the new Medical School at Owens College, Manchester, where Huxley was a governor. A summary was reported in *Nature*, 1874, 10: 455–57.

73

Huxley Papers 4:188

Shelford Oct 1 [1874]

Noble Sir

Many thanks for your questions received this morning – all in time. Pray pardon my telegram and other unmannerly signs of impatience – I did not know where on earth you were & got into my head that possibly you had left orders at Abbey Road not to forward letters!! in order that you might have peace.

Now I have been scheming for your further peace – <u>provided</u> that <u>you</u> do not wish to ask Balfour any questions about his papers – I mean his original work sent in – I have persuaded Trotter that a viva voce is unnecessary – and I think I can further scheme that if <u>there is no doubt</u> in Liveing's, Trotter's and my mind (your three fellow-examiners) that on receiving your opinion of Balfour's papers there is no doubt that Balfour is the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The main London terminus of the Great Northern Railway, now Euston Station.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> William Rutherford was elected to the Chair of Physiology at Edinburgh in 1874. John Cleland (1835–1924), professor of anatomy and physiology, Queen's College, Galway; James Bell Pettigrew (1834–1908), lecturer in physiology, Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh.

man – the report may be drawn up & sent to you to sign without bothering you to come down – this is only a private idea just come into my noddle – but I will do my best to work it <sup>1</sup>

I will send you Balfour's answers by tomorrow's post to <u>Abbey Road</u> – if you can let me have your official opinion on them as soon as convenient – & express no wish to have a viva voce – then I will do my best to jockey the thing through without your coming down.

I shall send the physiology too – as perhaps you might like to look at that as well.

I grieve much not to be with you at Manchester – please renew my regrets to Greenwood & Roscoe.<sup>2</sup>

It is very desirable that I should be here while the examination is going on – especially for your sake.

I am delighted you have been idle – it makes me all the more sorry that I shall be not with you tomorrow – when you are unprepared you are usually more audacious than usual.

Bully for Rutherford – we must make him stand a farewell dinner.

Ever thine

M. F.

If Trotter thinks the examination would be rendered invalid by your not coming down – then we shall look for you on Thursday – or if better for you Friday by the 12 G.N.R. train.

74

Huxley Papers 4:94

4 Marlborough Place Oct 20 1874

My dear Foster

Does that wonderful lake of yours wherever the muscovy duck "floats double duck & shadow" yield any show of <u>Vorticella Paramoecium</u> or any other sort of big infusoria? If so it would be a great service to send me a bottle thereof per post.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> On the basis of his research on the embryology of elasmobranchs carried out at the Marine Zoological Station in Naples, Balfour was elected a Fellow of Trinity College in 1874. George Downing Liveing (1827–1924), professor of chemistry and university administrator at Cambridge; Coutts Trotter (1837–1887), lecturer in physical science and senior dean, Trinity College, Cambridge.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Joseph Gouge Greenwood (1821–1894), principal of Owens College; Henry Enfield Roscoe (1833–1915), professor of chemistry, Owens College.

I am studying the infusoria with reference to Haeckel's last paper & cannot get specimens enough.<sup>2</sup> I find that they are killed instantaneously by perosmic acid and then can be healed with [illegible] acid etc like Christians & with very promising results. The inner mass of the body is by no means a mere structureless sarcode & I expect that they will shew how moners became converted into [illegible].

I have just had a letter from Sharpey who tells me he is leaving you today. If he is not gone please to say that his views shall be put before the Davy Committee.<sup>3</sup>

I hear you have a very good class - vogue la galère.

Ever yours

T. H. H.

<sup>1</sup> "The swan on still Saint Mary's Lake / Float double, swan and shadow", William Wordsworth, *Yarrow unvisited* (1803).

<sup>2</sup> Ernst Haeckel (1834–1919) was then publishing extensively on the structure of the infusoria. See Mario A. D. Gregorio, *From here to eternity: Ernst Haeckel and scientific faith*, Göttingen, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2005, 430ff.

<sup>3</sup>Of the Royal Society.

75

Huxley Papers 4:96

4 Marlborough Place N.W. Nov 29 1874

My dear Foster

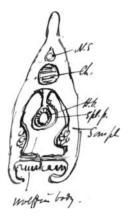
The Edinburgh people are in a fix, V. Carus who was to act as Thomson's deputy having told them that he cannot lecture next summer, they have applied to me and if my Lords will give me leave, which I doubt not of, I shall spend May, June & July in enlightening the Caledonians. <sup>1</sup>

Of course if I am there I can't be here (not being a bird) – and though I shall be able to arrange questions &c for the Examination I shall be unable to supervise the Ass Exs work – Will you undertake this business for me? It is loathsome but pays – and I really do not know anybody I should like to trust with it but you. You can occupy my quarter in South Kensington in fact I do not see how the work is to be done easily, except in the fashion I have organised there – I suppose there will not be fewer than 7–8000 papers.

Under these circumstances you must live in London for a while & what can be better than that Mrs Foster & you should take up your quarters here? My wife is delighted at the idea and tells me that it would be a great pleasure to have Mrs Foster (you are ignored) for a good long visit. I have not a doubt that you had laid out next summer for a piece of work, but so had L

Do manage the matter if you can. It will be the greatest comfort to me in all ways.

The chick book is very good and a great credit to the dedicatee; and I have made my students (who are a very good lot & working well this year) buy it.<sup>2</sup> I have been working at Amphioxus & have all sorts of ideas about the meaning of the splitting of the mesoblast in the high vertebrates which it would be long to expound. But to put it shortly – the splitting of the mesoblast in vertebrata is a reminiscence of a process of outgrowth by which the somatopleure is formed in Amphioxus. In the latter the genital gland & the Wolffian body (which has been described by Müller & Quatrefages<sup>3</sup> as longitudinal abdominal muscles) are formed from the epiblast (at least Wolffian body certainly is) & hence Wolffian body truly = segmental organ.



<u>Amphioxus</u> comes still [closer] to Ascidian – pleuroperitoneal cavity = atrial cavity

I am going to read a paper at the Linnean on Monday on the classification of animals of an exceedingly revolutionary character.<sup>4</sup> And I wish that some of the [illegible] who know embryology were going to be there.

Need not say that I am slightly busy Ever Yours

T. H. Huxley

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Charles Wyville Thomson (1830–1882), professor of natural history, Edinburgh University, was to be on the *Challenger* in the summer of 1875 and Julius Victor Carus (1823–1903), professor of comparative anatomy, and director of the Zoological Institute at Leipzig, was to act in his absence. For the *Challenger* expedition see Introduction, pp. xvii–xviii.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> M. Foster and Francis M. Balfour, *The elements of embryology*, Part I 'The history of the chick', London, Macmillan, 1874. Foster and Balfour dedicated the book "To Thomas Henry Huxley as a little token of our appreciation of his worth and his much kindness to ourselves".

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Johannes Peter Müller (1801–1858), German physiologist and comparative anatomist; Jean Louis Armand de Quatrefages de Bréau (1810–1892), French physician, anthropologist and zoologist.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 'On the classification of the animal kingdom', read 3 December 1874, *Journal of the Linnean Society*. *Zoology*, 1876, 12: 199–226; *Scientific memoirs*, vol. 4, pp. 35–60.