

20

Huxley Papers 4:18

My dear Foster

A pretty fellow I am not to have answered your letter – but I was dead beat at the end of last week & did nothing more than could be helped.

I have arranged to make only some introductory observations – by way of floating you among the schoolmasters and I expect that the lectures will not be given before the beginning of July.

Any time on either Friday or Saturday will suit me for a talk here – Don't come if it is a bad day like this.

I however ought to have looked over Pye Smith's Glossary,¹ not only for the elimination of Beulian Bosh but on other grounds. Par exemple look at the second paragraph of the explication of Abdomen which happens to be the first word in the glossary.

Where the deuce did he hear that the abdomen of his Insect is a "segment" & above all a "coalesced segment". I shall have that thrown in my teeth by ingenuous youth.

Ever Yours kindly

T. H. Huxley

Jermyn Street

May 4 1869

¹ Philip Henry Pye-Smith (1840–1914), then demonstrator of anatomy at Guy's Hospital, later a physician also at Guy's.

21

Huxley Papers 4:20

My dear Foster

I have just received notice that the Examination papers (2200 in number) are ready – so you & Parker¹ & I must have a consultation over them tomorrow.

1869

Will you be at South Kensington at 11 o'clock tomorrow instead of here at 10?
Ask for Capn Donnelly's office.²

Ever Yours kindly
T. H. Huxley

Jermyn St
May 7 1869

¹ William Kitchen Parker (1823–1890), comparative anatomist and zoologist.

² John Fretcheville Dykes Donnelly (1834–1902), 'Director of Science' at South Kensington. He served with the Royal Engineers until 1858 when he joined the staff of the Department of Science and Art at South Kensington. See *Oxford DNB*, vol. 16, pp. 548–549.

22

Huxley Papers 4:21

My dear Foster

I think we had better have a meeting on Thursday morning (27th May) at South Kensington (11 o'clock A.M.) to consider the final results of the examination as it will be needful that I should draw up a report thereanent.

All the Honours folk have failed ignominiously.

Ever Yours faithfully
T. H. Huxley

Jermyn St
May 22 1869

23

Huxley Papers 4:166

[Oct 29 1869]
Friday evening

My dear Friend

The poor darling¹ is dying – knows me now for a moment or two & then relapses into unconsciousness. She cannot last much longer. Your sympathy & Mrs Huxley's is

1869

very welcome. My father & mother are here and we have all we need except – the life.

Always yours

M. Foster

¹ Foster's wife. Foster and Georgina Gregory Edmunds had married in 1863.

24

Huxley Papers 4:167

[Nov 3 1869]

Wednesday

My dear Friend

Just a line to say my poor darling died at 3.20 this morning. We all leave for Huntingdon to-morrow or Friday. I intend making that my home at present. I shall be up next week & will try and call on you – my whole life seems broken. My kindest regards to Mrs Huxley.

Yours most truly

M. Foster

25

Huxley Papers 4:168

Huntingdon

Nov 8 [1869]

My dear Friend

Very many thanks for your very kind letter – It has always been a regret to me that Mrs Huxley did not live nearer to us and that you never saw her at all. I think I can say no one knew her who did not love her.

I start with my mother to-morrow for Bickley to clear out the house which I give up. At present I have in my mind to live here as my home, coming up to London when my duties call me. But Jenner¹ has [been] threatening me again – and I am going to see him in a day or two – and I fear I shall have to give in, in some measure at least, to his advice whatever it may be.

1870

I meant during the week to have looked in at Jermyn St but as yet I don't feel able for it. If I do, I will call. But so far my burden seems heavier and heavier.

My kindest remembrances to Mrs Huxley.

I don't know the original of the bit of Goethe – but as a bit of English your work is “beautiful and strong”.

Good bye

Yours ever most sincerely

M. Foster

¹ Foster's doctor, Sir William Jenner (1815–1898). See *Oxford DNB*, vol. 30, pp. 10–12.

26

Huxley Papers 4:170

Huntingdon

Jan 20 1870

My dear Huxley

I don't know what you will say to me, but I have come back!¹

I got on with my journey until I got to San Remo on my way by the Corniche to Genoa. There I had a queer attack which quite upset me in as much as it affected my head in some way. So instead of going straight on as I intended, I stayed a few days. Afterwards on resuming my journey I got so queer and nervous that I turned back at Genoa & got to San Remo again, intending to stay with some friends I had found there.

I continued however instead of improving, to go on the other tack – the fierce stimulation of the air did not seem to suit me at all. I am not ashamed to say I suffered a good deal from home sickness – but I would have knocked that down if I could have felt sure that I was in the right place. Anyhow I began to feel that I would rather do anything than go on any farther away from England – and finally made up my mind to come home, which place I reached on Sunday.

I feel as if I had done something cowardly in turning tail – and as if I had been putting off a lot of work – and got up sympathy for myself on false pretences – and yet I believe I shall get on far better down here than if I had stayed abroad. As far as I can see my way at present I mean to stay here, treating myself as if I were an invalid till the East winds come & then running away to some English shelter for a month or so.

1870

This is all about myself – I write it only to explain. I am beginning to hate myself and my complaints – Please don't waste any time in writing to me unless you have something you want me to do. I don't mean to stir from here for some time to come – but as soon as I do move I will call and see you. My affectionate remembrances to Mrs Huxley and Believe yours ever truly
M. Foster

¹From his foreign tour following the death of his wife.

27

Huxley Papers 4:173

[April/May 1870]

Reverend Sir,

Most people every now & then take stock of what they possess, and during the last few weeks I have been taking stock of what I owe to you. The quarter of a century you spoke of on Wednesday reminded me of the more than half a quarter century which has gone by since I first read an Oct. no. of *Brit. Med. Chir. Rev.*¹ – and became aware of the existence of a certain T. H. H. holding broad views on physiology which in the sweet ignorance of nineteen, I then thought were confined in England, to myself.

From the time when I trembled before you at a corner of the Royal Society's old tea-room, or when you made me blush at Aberdeen in the reddest & hottest manner by patting me on the back after my first little shot,² up to last week I have had nothing but help and sympathy from you. All that time I have been dreading for the hour to come when you & others should find me out – & kick me out as an imposter. Now a days I begin to fancy that perhaps after all I shall sneak thro' life with my feebleness undetected. However the only return I can make is to send you a poor paper IOU, and to promise to pass the help on – to help others as far as I can as you have helped me — I can never of course expect to give any one anything like this last lift – the importance of which I as yet can hardly realize.³ It is hardly more than the other day since I wrote to you I remember, from Huntingdon, wondering whether I should ever get away from that treadmill practice work – and now this strange tangled web of events has given me all the outward things I could wish for – and at the same time taken away the mainstay of my life, so that I live now in an unreal world, beating the air, & grasping shadows – has given with one hand & taken away with the other, and in the strangest way has made the giving dependent on the taking – for I suppose if my wife had never been ill, I had never left Huntingdon. If the parsons could leave their bad metaphysics & worse science – and grasp hold of this wonderful Providence which tosses us about and tossing guides us – they might have something to say worth hearing. Would I could go back to the old patients & pills and

have my wife back by my side were it only for an hour a week – but it is not to be, & I suppose my past means that there there [*sic*] is something in the future for me to do.

Oh by the bye, I have remembered what it was I wanted to tell you when we met at the opening of the University – I wanted to congratulate you on the great success which has attended your efforts at the Ethnological Soc – you must feel rewarded for all your labours now that you have had a paper by Dr Donovan (previously read I should say at the Anthropological) and succeeded in getting him, (as I see by his advertisements) to become a Fellow.⁴

Now that you have “crowned the edifice”, don’t you think you might as well retire from the society – and attend to these other less important perhaps but still useful matters – original work principles of biology &c &c for which your friends as well as yourself think you are fitted?

Reverend Sir, please to send me none of your autographs in pretence of answering this scribble – for I have got more now than I can sell – If you do, I shall throw up the Cambridge appointment, if you don’t I shall try & run to Cambridge, supposing these con-founded papers let me – & report progress when I see you again.

But believe me

Ever Yours

M. Foster

¹ T. H. Huxley, ‘The cell theory’, *British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review*, 1853, 12: 285–314.

² Foster had presented his paper on the snail’s heart before the British Association meeting in Aberdeen in September 1859. An abstract was published in ‘Notices and Abstracts’, *Report of the British Association for the Advancement of Science*, 1859, 29: 160.

³ Foster was elected to the newly founded praelectorship in physiology at Trinity College, Cambridge.

⁴ Huxley as president of the Ethnological Society was trying to merge with the Anthropological Society. Dr C. Donovan presented his paper ‘On the brain in the study of ethnology’, an abstract of which was printed in *The Journal of the Ethnological Society of London (1869–1870)*, 1870, 2: 369. For Victorian anthropology, see George W. Stocking, Jr, *Victorian anthropology*, New York, Free Press; London, Collier-Macmillan, 1987.

28

Huxley Papers 4:22

My dear Foster

I did not get at the examination papers till yesterday – a meeting of our Council having blocked me on Saturday.

You did quite right in plucking all these fellows. I let off a few that you were doubtful about – but the great majority are slain.

I shall make a special report about them – sending up such papers as these is a mere swindle.

1870

I saw your appointment formally announced in the Pall Mall¹ yesterday, and rejoiced thereat – You will be so rich now there will be no holding you.

Ever Yours
T. H. Huxley

May 17 1870

¹Foster's appointment to the praelectureship of pure physiology, recently established in Trinity College, Cambridge, was announced in 'This evening's news' in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, 16 May 1870.

29

Huxley Papers 4:24

My dear Foster

I knew I had something else I wanted to talk to you about this morning.

Enclosed is a wonderfully interesting letter from Brown-Séquard¹ which please return to me when you have read it. I have replied to say that you are President of the Section & that I would ask you to communicate with him & make all needful arrangements. It is a wonderful business and we must have the guinea pigs exhibited – I should have thought begetting guinea piglets with your sciatic nerves cut was propagation under difficulties.

Tristram Shandy, if I mistake not, considered that his father's lumbago gave a date for his own conception!²

Ever yours faithfully
T. H. Huxley

Jermyn Street
Aug 3rd 1870

¹Charles Edward Brown-Séquard (1817–1894) had written to Huxley on 2 August 1870 about experiments in the transmission of acquired characteristics, the results of which he wished to exhibit at the British Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Liverpool (Huxley Papers 11.108). He communicated his findings 'On apparent transmission of abnormal conditions due to accidental causes' at the meeting in September.

²Laurence Sterne, *The life and opinions of Tristram Shandy*, 1, iv.

30

Huxley Papers 4:25

My dear Foster

What do you mean by not turning up on Dec^r. 10 as a letter of yours which has just turned up among a heap of other unanswered companions, promises?

Be it known to you that your namesake with the “r” in his name has sanctioned the biology teaching in the summer.¹ I shall soon have the details & then, “Oh my vizier!” thou must come & be present at a Divan.

I have heard great things of your lectures at Cambridge but also that you have been unwell – Don’t let me hear any more of that last.

I have had School board² on the brain, & Dyspepsia; the former badly – the latter lightly.

Ever Yours

T. H. Huxley

26 Abbey Place

Dec 12 1870

¹ W. E. Forster (1818–1886), politician, instrumental in the passing of the 1870 Education Act.

² A London School Board was created in 1870 with Elizabeth Garrett and Huxley being elected for Marylebone. See Desmond, *Huxley*, pp. 401–405.

31

Huxley Papers 4:184

Dec 31 1870

Dear Huxley

I have explained to Mrs Huxley my unwilling absence. Before I left town I saw Rutherford¹ again – he is very desirous to go in for the whole thing² – & has ordered a lot of Botany & other books to commence his own preparation.

Lankester³ is also very anxious to join – & will come back from Germany on purpose. I called on Mosely [*sic*]⁴ but he had gone away for Xmas. I will see him next time I am up. I saw Brunton⁵ one day – but said nothing to him – but he seems a very capable man and in case of Mosely not being able to join might be thought of. I told Macmillan I thought it would be much better if the advanced Text Book came out in your name as

1871

well as mine, I doing all the work. You did agree to this informally – if you agree formally I think it would be almost as well to advertize it to silence the field.

Ever thine

M. Foster

¹ William Rutherford (1839–1899), professor of physiology at King’s College, London.

² Practical summer classes for science teachers. These started in 1871.

³ Edwin Ray Lankester (1847–1929), zoologist, then Radcliffe Travelling Fellow, see Joseph Lester, *E Ray Lankester and the making of modern British biology*, Faringdon, BSHS, 1995, and *Oxford DNB*, vol. 32, pp. 535–538.

⁴ Henry Nottidge Moseley (1844–1891), naturalist. See *Oxford DNB*, vol. 39, pp. 456–458.

⁵ Thomas Lauder Brunton (1844–1916), then lecturer in materia medica and pharmacology at the Middlesex Hospital.

32

Huxley Papers 4:27

Jan 2. 1871

My dear Foster

We are very sorry to miss you today but you did quite rightly not to come in this weather. I had a sharp journey up from Leeds on Saturday. I have been there & at Bradford turning an honest penny out of yeast.¹

I am very glad that Rutherford & Lankester are secure for our work with either of the other two we shall be all right.

I have a sort of holy horror of putting my name to anything with which I have had nothing to do, however good it may be. And indeed the better it is the more shamefaced I am about seeming to claim any share in another man’s work – which in your case is sure to be good – Why not make a real joint shirts operation of it? We could arrange the plan together & I would take some chapters e.g. those on the senses & mental operations, and you others. There’s life in the old dog yet School board notwithstanding and I have things to say on Physiology, that are unsaid as yet.

If you like this notion I do not see why Macmillan should not advertize soon.

Ever Yours very faithfully

T. H. Huxley

Happy New Year. Don’t work too hard.

¹ Huxley’s essay on ‘Yeast’, was published in *The Contemporary Review*, December 1871, **19**: 23–36 (*Collected essays*, vol. 8, pp. 110–136).

Huxley Papers 4:29

My dear Foster

I have just received from "My Lords" the official sanction for the six weeks course in the summer – But they have cut down my estimate & put it into the shape which we at first agreed upon but which may not be quite so well adapted for present circumstances. It stands now:

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Professor | £200.00 |
| Assistant | 120.00 |
| Two Demonstrators | 200.00 |
| (£100 each) | |
| Tables | 30.00 |
| 15 Microscopes | 100.00 |
| Material | 100.00 |

There will be 45 schoolmasters to be taught.

The official letter tells me that the sums stated are taken on the estimates so that I am afraid it would be impossible to get any alteration made in the total amount.

But I think it would be possible to make a redistribution thus for example:

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Llama | 150 |
| Deputy Llama | 100 |
| 3 Llama calves | <u>270</u> (90 x3) |
| | 520 |

And if you are agreeable to that arrangement & think it would work, I am.

No. 2. is if you think it better that Rutherford & Lankester & yourself should be equals & [only] prefer the same work & same pay arrangement then I am open to this.

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Llama | 160 |
| 3 Deputy Llamas | <u>360</u> |
| | £520 |

I have no doubt the department will do what I want as long as the total remains.

Let me know your mind about this at once – I am disposed to think that arrangement No 2 would be best.

Ever Yours faithfully

T. H. Huxley

May 5 1871

Huxley Papers 4:31

My per-angelic

I wondered what had become of you as I have not seen Sharpey or any body else who knew of your whereabouts.

By your impertinence I presume you are in rude health, and rejoice accordingly. The wife says “of course there was no blunder in the V.A. – she looked over it” a statement which I am sorry to say is more creditable to her audacity than to her sense of truth.

The cuts have reached me – the book parts parcel not yet – I don’t think the cuts are bad by no means – but I will wait for daylight.

Morning of Tuesday 26: I am your man whenever you like to turn up in J. S.

Why could you not have come here instead of going to see your sister on Monday? Family affection is one of the lowest of impulses – a mere instinct, without any sort of justification on intellectual grounds. I have been pounding Mivart & the Quarterly Reviewer as you will see in Contemporary for November.¹ Also discussing functions of Government vide. Fortnightly for November;² also discussing Ritualism see Quarterly for January: also an article on Lord Russell & Lord [Somers] see Edinburgh for ditto:³ with a paper on the distinctive characters of the eloquence of the Revd Morley Punshon⁴ in the Nonconformist for December.

Ever thine

T. H. H.

Oct 27 1871

Wife sends her best wishes – has a bad toe which she says is nail & I say is gout. [Biby] just arrived.

¹T. H. Huxley, ‘Mr Darwin’s critics’, *The Contemporary Review*, November 1871, **18**: 443–476 (*Collected essays*, vol. 2, pp. 120–186) reviewed A. R. Wallace’s *Contributions to the theory of natural selection* (1870); St. George Mivart, *The genesis of species*, second edition (1871) and St. George Mivart, ‘Darwin’s descent of man’, *Quarterly Review*, July 1871: 47–90.

²‘Administrative nihilism’, *Fortnightly Review*, Nov. 1871, **16**: 525–543 (*Collected essays*, vol. 1, pp. 251–289).

³These do not appear to have been published.

⁴William Morley Punshon (1824–1881), nonconformist minister and public lecturer.

35

Huxley Papers 4:33

My dear Foster –

A student (brother of a friend of mine) applied to me to know what place in Germany is best for the study of Human Anatomy. I told him I imagined Leipzig is probably the place for him but [letter incomplete]

36

Huxley Papers 4:34

My dear Foster

I have just turned up this Bill which I beg leave to say I have paid

| T.H.H. | M.F. | R. | LR |
|--------|------|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

4/ 9.1.10

£ 2. 5.5 ½ T.H.H. his share

leaving 6.16.4 ½

Redevable à M. Le Prof

You may collect it & you shall have the half penny for your troubles.

I am seedy to the last degree but finished last London Inst lecture¹ today & shall get away as soon as maybe.

Ever thine

T. H. Huxley

26 Abbey Place

Dec 18 1871

¹ From October to December 1871 Huxley had given a course of lectures on 'Elementary Physiology' to the London Institution.

37

Huxley Papers 4:35

My dear Foster

I leave this on Wednesday afternoon next & start from Southampton by the “Malta” at 2 p.m. on Thursday 11th.

Whereby if you have any sailing directives for me send them swiftly.

I go to Gibraltar first & stop there a week – then straight to Egypt.

I have told Donnelly that you will manage somehow about the S.K. Lectures to womankind and I shall be away a couple of months.¹ So when you are in town come & cheer up the wife a bit like a good fellow.

Ever Yours

T. H. H.

Jan 8 1872

¹ Due to ill health, Huxley was given two months' leave of absence. Foster took over his physiology lectures to women at South Kensington.

38

Huxley Papers 4:36

Hotel du Louvre, Paris

April 5 1872

My dear Foster

Don't think me ungrateful for not sooner replying to your two cheery letters, which did me a world of good when I got them. That “when” however is not so long ago, inasmuch as they did not reach me until the 18th of March on my return to Cairo – along with half a dozen from my wife – the accounts of the up-the-Nile postal service were so bad that I did not have any letter sent on, especially as my original intention was to go no further than Thebes. I am going home tomorrow, as well as ever I was in my life, of a fine burnt sienna colour as to complexion and “bearded like the pard” – not in the half & half fashion of former years, which you have so often been pleased to mock at – but entirely – I hope the powers that be will allow me to keep this manly ornament. As a last argument, I shall have the honour to point out, that if I shave the lower part of my face will be white while the upper is nearly black, for many months to come; and that no audience can be expected to contemplate a piebald face with due gravity.

1872

It took me a long time to get right. I did not say anything about myself in my early letters, because I had nothing satisfactory to say, and it was of no use to distress the wife. As it was, I let out something about not sleeping, which made her very anxious. The fact is, that I did not get into a healthy condition until we had left Thebes on our downward journey – and I suspect, I have had a near escape of something disagreeable. So I return with a fixed determination to live scientifically & leave off politics which I suppose is, for me, the equivalent of “living cleanly & leaving off sack” so that my days may be long in the land and my brains may last as long as my days – which is the main thing.

My wife tells me your visits have been a great comfort & pleasure to her – and you know that there is nothing for which I am so grateful as for a kindness done to her. Few people appreciate her at real value or dream of what part she has played in my life – and I know that the last three months have been a bitter trial to her, cheerful as all her letters are.

Come & dine & sleep in the Tabagie as soon as you can – I have oceans of things to talk to you about.

The best sight I have seen in all my travels was Vesuvius ablaze – I went up and had a pocket eruption for my especial benefit.

No, one thing in its way was better and that is the Apollo Belvedere – because man with his limited faculties did the latter, and the Almighty to whom it is no trouble the other. But it just occurs to me that the Almighty did both. Confound Pantheism & all metaphysics [letter uncomplete]

39

Huxley Papers 4:38

My dear Foster

I have just received a “missile” from my Lords to the effect that there will be about 5900 papers in Animal Physiology this year and that I shall therefore want 6 Assist Exs I think you told me you could find me one at Cambridge and I wrote to Rutherford this post to see if he can discover another.

Papers ready by May 9th.

Ever Yours

T. H. Huxley

26 Abbey Place

April 15 1872

40

Huxley Papers 4:39

My dear Foster

I have looked at the proof and substituted “irregularly” for “queerly” shaped cartilages etc. How could you! “Queerly” would have appeared in every examination paper for years.

Martin’s name has gone in and Rutherford has supplied the other Pritchard.¹

I heartily congratulate you on your F.R.S. – though I am somewhat jealous that I have had nothing to do with your election.

Your brother very kindly told [Bale]² to send me a couple of bottles of the water & sent full directions.

I began this morning with 2/7 nd tumbler at 7 a.m. and at 9 a.m. I was like a holothuria – the haemorrhoidal symptoms however, had nearly vanished already – thanks to a hard trot on a grey mare, which I have been taking regularly during the past week.

Altogether I am much better & don’t mean to cave in at present.

Ever yours faithfully

T. H. Huxley

April 21 1872

¹ Foster’s student Henry Newell Martin (see letter 62, note 1) and Urban Pritchard (1845–1925), FRCS, later an ear surgeon at King’s College Hospital.

² Unidentified.

41

Huxley Papers 4:42

My dear Foster

Why did you not turn up according to promise on Tuesday or Wednesday?

Glad you safe back out of the modern Sodom like Lot with his two daughters.

Dohn¹ has sent the enclosed letter for you – which I have kept in the first place, not knowing your whereabouts in the second expecting to see you – He has written to me on the same topic and as to whether Oxford or the Royal Society are likely to come into any

1872

such plan² – It looks to me improbable enough & I hardly like to advise Dohrn even to write to Rolleston³ about it.

Ever Yours very faithfully

T. H. Huxley

Address

26 Abbey Place

NW

July 4 1872

¹ Anton Dohrn (1840–1909), German zoologist and founder of the Naples Zoological Station.

² Financial help for the Marine Zoological Station at Naples.

³ George Rolleston (1829–1881), professor of comparative anatomy at Oxford.

42

Huxley Papers 4:57

[Sept. 1872]

My dear Foster

Put brevity & bitterness (if there were any – I did not mean there should be) down to aggravated dyspepsia which obliged me to leave Devon & betake myself to the more restorative air of I of W. – By dint of leaving off things in general including meat, alcohol, & baccy I have got pretty well right again – and in the humour to receive the wife & belongings who turned up yesterday.

The “Büchlein” has got itself done now all but a revise of the Preface.¹ I shall rewrite it altogether some of these days but in the mean while it may stand for a year or two.

I shall have an awful lot of trouble with the course I am now organizing – I foresee, but I think it will be worthwhile.

I declare you are very magnanimous about Martin – I have not seen Lubbock² so I do not know whether anything has been done.

1873

Pray make my kindest regards to Mrs Foster³ – tell her (what I daresay she has discovered) that by a judicious mixture of kindness & firmness you are easily governed and therefore that you are not to be allowed to smoke so much.

Ever Yours very faithfully
T. H. Huxley

Do you happen to know if any one has ever written anything about these white patches beneath the vertebral column of the frog?

¹ Huxley wrote a short preface in September 1872 for the third edition of *Lessons in elementary physiology*.

² John Lubbock (1834–1913), banker, politician, scientific writer and archaeologist; he was created Baron Avebury in 1900.

³ Foster had married Margaret Sarah Rust on 22 August 1872.

43

Huxley Papers 4:44

4 Marlborough

Mar 2 /73

My dear Foster

I am very sorry I can't let you have Pendel-myograph.¹ I let Rutherford have my galvanometer the other day to get him out of a difficulty but I swore by all my Gods I would not do it again to please anybody. It's contrary to all rules & regulations.

I say nothing of the cheeky way in which you put the request & which deserves something on its own account.

What makes you come up on Saturday March 8th & expect to see me, when you know perfectly well that the wife & I were going to pay Darwin a visit on that day? Don't do that again.

I am greatly better as you may observe – but obliged to take the most absurd care of my eating & drinking – or I lapse from grace – One comfort is that I find my insular mode of life convenient & conducive to work.

1873

Tell me if anything has been written especially about Protoplasm since Kühne's 1864 paper²

Ever yours

T. H. H.

¹ A myograph especially associated with Hermann von Helmholtz's work on nerve velocity.

² Willy Kühne (1837–1900), German physiologist and professor at Amsterdam and Heidelberg, *Untersuchungen über das Protoplasma*, Leipzig, Engelmann, 1864.

44

Huxley Papers 4:46

My dear Foster

Will you bring up with you when you come on Saturday & leave for me at Athenaeum or Jermyn St – my notes & drawing on Pencillium.

Ever yours

T. H. Huxley

March 4 1873

45

Huxley Papers 4:47

4, Marlborough Place

Abbey Road, N.W.

March 5 1873

My dear Foster

No I don't mean chemically – I mean any way. Give me a direct answer, Sir, to my question – Has any body to your knowledge written especially upon Protoplasm since Kühne wrote his book "Das Protoplasma".

I am sure to be at South Kensington on Friday afternoon & glad to see you.

Ever Yours very faithfully

T. H. Huxley

46

Huxley Papers 4:49

March 19 1873

My dear Foster

Best thanks for the copy of the “Handbook”¹ which looks (as Lord Lytton would have said) as if it combined the Beautiful, the Useful & the True.

Aber Klein ist Gross.²

Ever Thine

T. H. H.

¹E. Klein, *et al.*, *Handbook for the physiological laboratory*, ed. J. Burdon Sanderson, London, Churchill, 1873.

²Edward Emanuel Klein (1844–1925), histologist and bacteriologist. Klein’s contributions were especially controversial in their descriptions of animal experiments, and he subsequently caused problems when he testified to the Royal Commission. See Richard D. French, *Antivivisection and medical science in Victorian society*, Princeton, NJ, Princeton University Press, [1975], pp. 103–106.

47

Huxley Papers 4:186

[1873]

My Lord (Rector)¹

It strikes me 1st that you ought not to be bothered just now with the Elementary biology Book² & 2nd that Martin ought to be getting on with it. 3rd that much might be done thus Martin will go on concocting what he fancies will be to your taste – I will taste it first & add such sugar etc & water as seems necessary. – & we will add Thistleton [*sic*] Dyer to look at the Botany.³ In this way much will be done before you have done your spouting in the North – & if you like it well & good – if not it can soon be wiped out.

1873

If you approve of this say nothing & we will go on with it. – So if I don't hear from you Martin will go on firing away.

Ever thine

M. F.

¹ See following letter.

² T. H. Huxley, assisted by H. N. Martin, *A course of practical instruction in elementary biology*, London, Macmillan, 1875.

³ William Turner Thiselton-Dyer (1843–1928), botanist, assistant director of the Royal Gardens, Kew (1875–1885).

48

Huxley Papers 4:50

4 Marlborough Place

April 22 1873

My dear Foster

Please read enclosed & tell me if you have any likely young man disposable. Biology, had best mean Human Physiology with incidental morphology &c. I think – a great deal might be done in this direction by a wise youth.

I have been in Aberdeen fighting for the admission of Scotch dissenters to bursaries in my University & getting beaten.¹ The parsons being too many for me. But we shall win yet.

What is the meaning of that artificial respiration apparatus with a T. tube you have recommended for circulation at South Kensington?

Do you want us to be abolished altogether by the humanitarians?

The wife has been away in Warwickshire & is back today all the better.

With kindest regards from we 2 to you 2

Ever Yours

T. H. H.

¹ Students had elected Huxley Lord Rector of Aberdeen University at the end of 1872.

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Huxley Papers 4:51

South Kensington

April 25 1873

My dear Foster

I expect that the examination papers will be ready sometime about the 12th May and they are at present estimated at 7000. – Whereby I shall need a seventh assistant examiner. Of course I count upon Martin again. Will you kindly speak to him about it?

And did you not tell me some other promising young Cantab you had in view in case I needed more help – If so produce him. (what a smudge)

I have made up my mind not to give any schoolmaster course this year – They can very well do without it & it would be more prudent on my part to be quit of the work. I am much better but still horribly hypochondriacal & I mean to take a long holiday in the summer & autumn – three months at least if I can manage it.¹

Ever yours very faithfully,

T. H. Huxley

¹ Huxley toured the Auvergne and the Ardèche with Joseph D. Hooker (see letter 55, note 4).

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Huxley Papers 4:53

April 28 1873

My dear Foster

I could not get here on Saturday but the [illegible] notes shall be packed up and sent by book post today.

We were delighted with the picture. It is just the fresh breezy thing that does one good on a London wall – But I could find it in my heart to scold you for sending me so valuable a present.

We shall hang it in the drawing room whenever said drawing room is habitable – The tiles have come home the wrong colour & have to be baked again!! Imagine the wife's peace of mind.

1873

If the schoolmasters begin to show the mammalian heart beating – we should “shut up shop at once” with a vengeance. That piece of apparatus will be eliminated & so will the aneurism needles.

I rode fourteen or fifteen miles yesterday and I am so much the better for it that I write more than is needful as you see.

I am really picking up & with a long rest in the summer I shall I hope be up to anything again.

What cause or impediment is there why you & Madame if she comes up should not dine with us on Wednesday? In any case you will find me here in the morning.

Ever Yours

T. H. Huxley

I sent you a copy of “Critiques &”.¹ You will find nothing new in it but the Preface – Booksellers have taken half the edition already. Bless the British public.

¹ *Critiques and addresses*, London, Macmillan, 1873.

51

Huxley Papers 4:55

My dear Foster

I wrote & sent off a note to you a couple of hours ago but forgot to say two things. First that at this present our first day of meeting for Exams. is fixed for Saturday 17 May and we cannot afford to lose two days by altering it. While the people here are certain not to be ready sooner.

Secondly I forgot to ask you to speak to Mr Yule¹ about acting as Asst Examiner. You do not give me his address or I would write to him.

Ever yours very faithfully,

T. H. Huxley

Ap 28 1873

¹ Charles John Francis Yule (1848–1905), studied physiology at Cambridge with Foster.

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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]