

# University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS AND DEVELOPMENT

515 Morrill Hall  
Urbana, Illinois 61801

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Dear Viktor,

Thank you very much for your informative letter dated Jan. 9th in which you answered so many of my earlier questions so well. I'm glad your hip was not bothering you when you wrote and hope this is still true. It is great that Max Cowan's successor and you will also have so much in common. Your two daughters must feel a great sense of accomplishment in completing their advanced degrees and you must feel very proud of them for doing so. I so enjoyed your statement about "the parents of the stage series"!

Naturally I'm back again with a few more questions about Dr. Willier. I have much of the memoir written in sections in rough drafts from which the final writing will be done as I get the last of the information I am corresponding about. I have written one small paragraph (in rough draft) on Willier and the "Growth Society", a copy of which is enclosed (please ignore the scribbling on the upper right). There are several specific questions I would like to ask you about this. I know you were at the original symposium in 1939 when the steps were taken to organize this society.

1. To your knowledge, did Willier participate in selection of the topics and speakers for the first symposium in 1939?
2. Did he actually participate in establishment of the Society for the Study of Development and Growth as two sources have indicated (see statements with footnotes 4 and 5)?
3. What role, if any, did the summer meetings of the "sandpipers" play in establishment of the society? (I have not seen this possibility mentioned by anyone, but have wondered about it.)
4. Any other comments you might have relative to the contents of the enclosed paragraph would be greatly appreciated.

Although John Spurbeck is extremely reluctant to make it known generally, he has told me and several others (the Bodensteins, Willie Reams, and at my suggestion more recently Howard Hamilton, Irwin Konigsberg, Jim Ebert and Ronan O'Rahilly), that Mary Rawles is very ill with advanced Alzheimer's Disease--a non-treatable form of dementia according to John. John is obviously very distraught. Apparently this has developed for the past several years but has become rapidly worse the past 6 months. I thought you would want to know because you have been good friends. But I suspect it would be better not to write to John because he (they?) seems to want to bring only a very few people into their confidence.

Best regards,



