6233 Mulholland
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3.ii.63

Dear Dr Lederberg,

Thank you for your very friendly letter & the fascinating paper that accompanied it. The future will ~~be~~ be alarming, yes — but certainly not dull! Let's hope that the gentlemen who control our destiny will allow us to have a future — not just a nuclear rôtisserie or a long-drawn demographic chaos. (I was briefly in India last year & came away abysmally depressed. A net increase of nine millions a year; an under-employment rate of 100 millions; a literacy rate of about 20% — & virtually no capital. What can these poor devils do to hoist themselves up, as people, to a slightly more human level of physical and mental life?)

I hope very much that I may have an opportunity of meeting you before long. Let me know if you ever come this way. I myself expect to go north at the end of March for a lecture at Eugene, Oregon. But I hope to stop on the way up or down at Berkeley. Will you be at Stanford at that time? If so I would like to look in on you there.

Sincerely,

Aldous Huxley.