

New College,
Oxford.

6th April, 1967.

Professor Mario Bunge,
McGill University,
Department of Philosophy,
MONTREAL,
Canada.

Dear Professor Bunge,

Thank you for sending me your paper.
I am sorry that I did not get a chance to see
you again when I returned to Montreal.

As you expected, I find myself in general
agreement with the approach which you develop
in your paper. The only point which I query
is your finding it a special merit in a
scientific theory that it contradicts previous
beliefs. I agree with you that the occasion
for putting forward a new theory is often that
an old one has proved unsatisfactory, but we
usually try to save as much of the old theory
as we can. It is only in very rare cases
that it is totally discarded. In any case,
the merit of a theory surely consists in the
amount that it enables us to explain and predict
irrespective of the merits or demerits of the
theories which it replaces.

Yours sincerely,

A. J. Ayer

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