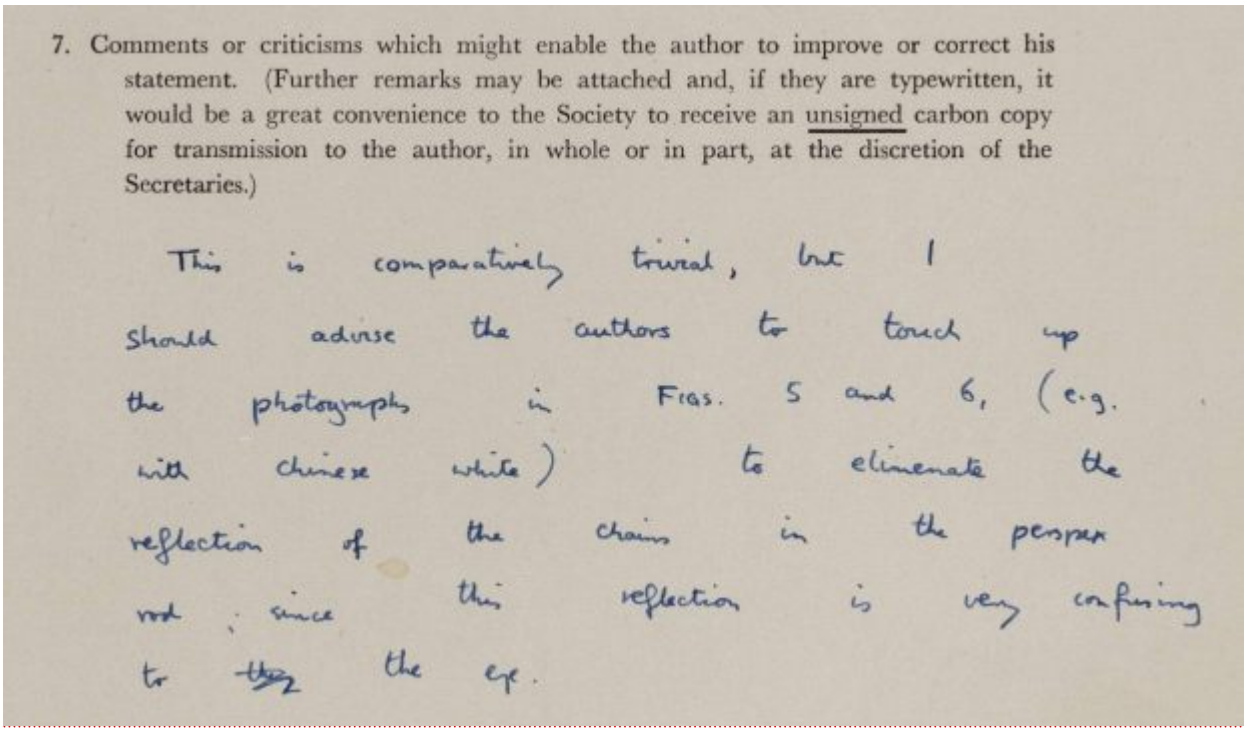
JOKE, PHILOSOPHY

COMPARATIVELY TRIVIAL

17.10.2024

Nature has a short report about historical peer reviews including a link to the Referee Report of Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin about the 1954 Watson & Crick complementary paper (not the 1953 Watson & Crick double helix paper).



7. Comments or criticisms which might enable the author to improve or correct his statement. (Further remarks may be attached and, if they are typewritten, it would be a great convenience to the Society to receive an unsigned carbon copy for transmission to the author, in whole or in part, at the discretion of the Secretaries.)

This is comparatively trivial, but I should advise the authors to touch up the photographs in Figs. 5 and 6, (e.g. with chinese white) to eliminate the reflection of the chains in the perspex rod, since this reflection is very confusing to the eye.

https://makingscience.royalsociety.org/items/rr_79_230/referees-report-by-dorothy-mary-crowfoot-hodgkin-on-a-paper-the-complementary-structure-of-deoxyribonucleic-acid-by-francis-harry-compton-crick-and-james-dewey-watson?page=1

And here is Fig 5 and Fig 6 of the paper under review. So did Watson & Crick follow her advice?

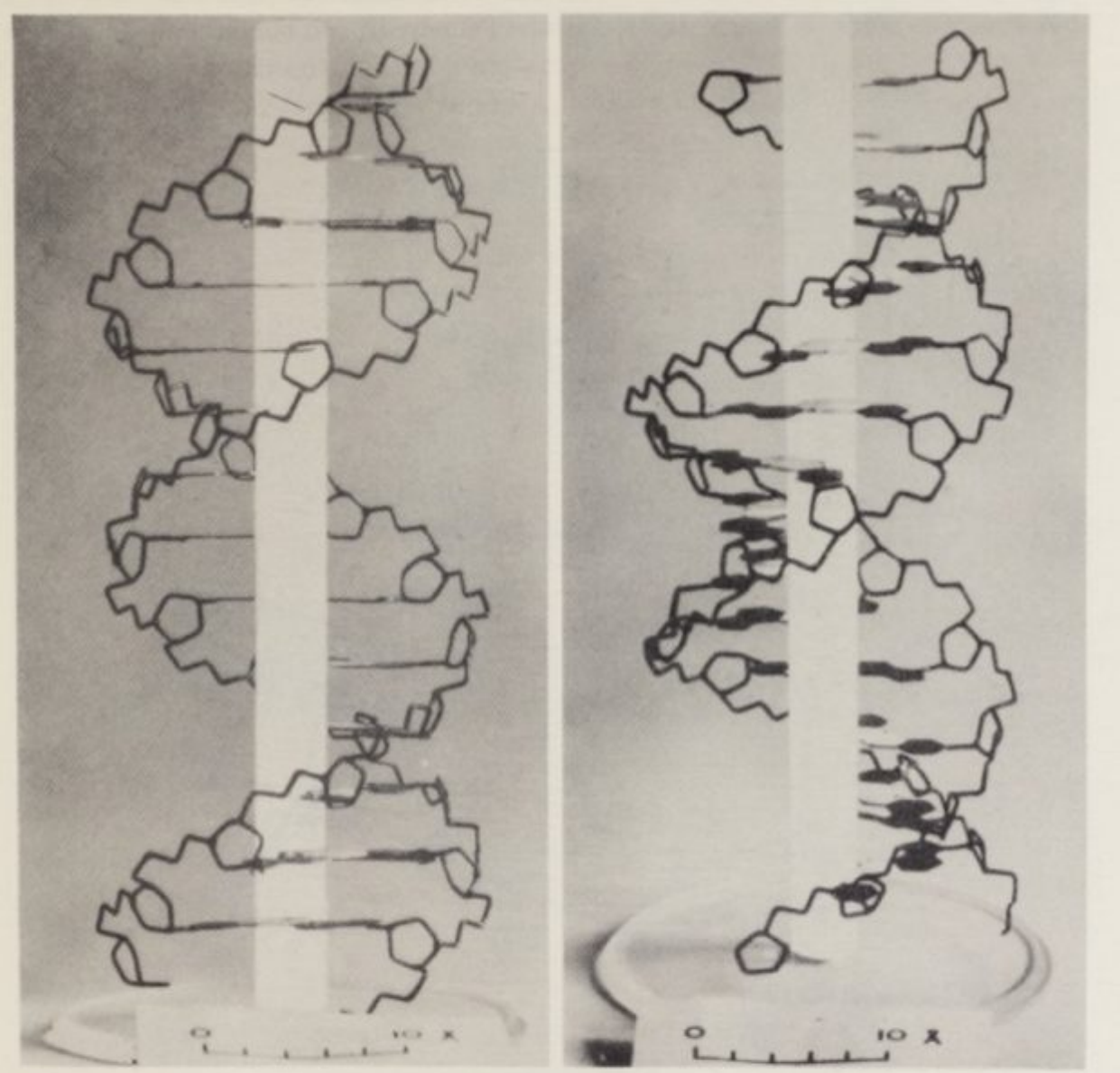


FIGURE 5. FIGURE 6.

FIGURE 5. Photograph of a rough scale model of the structure. The chemical bonds in the phosphate sugar backbone are represented by wire. (All the hydrogen atoms and the two oxygen atoms of the phosphate group not in ester linkage have been omitted.) The pairs of bases are represented by metal plates. The fibre axis is represented by a Perspex rod.

FIGURE 6. Another view of the model shown in figure 5. The white plates represent the area between the bases in which hydrogen bonding takes place.

https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspa.1954.0101

I don’t think so.