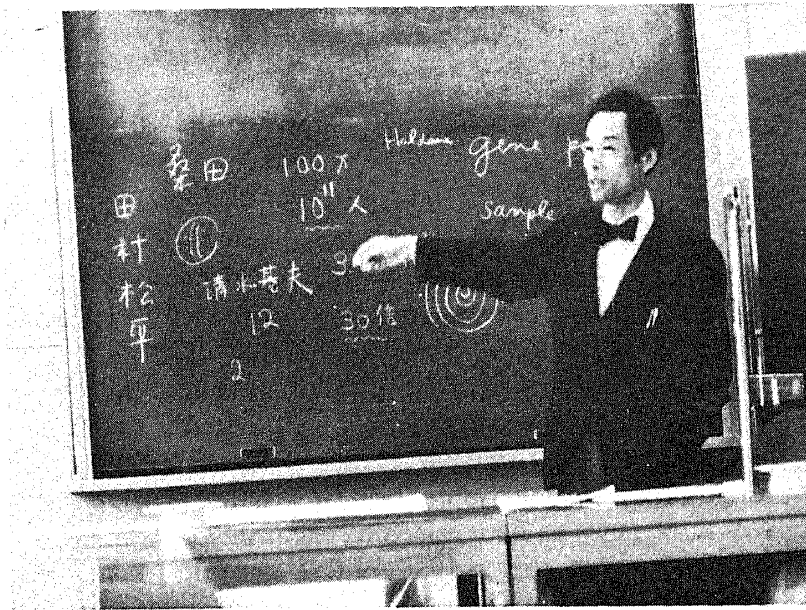

Editor's note

This issue of *Journal of Genetics* is in honour of Motoo Kimura, who passed away on 13 November 1994. The three biographical accounts in this issue, by James Crow, William Provine and Tomoko Steen, provide engrossing vignettes of Kimura's life and science. As pointed out by Tomoko Ohta and Provine in their preface, the scientific papers in this collection attest to the impact of Kimura's work on diverse topics in population genetics and molecular evolution. The biographical notes and the preface also draw attention to Kimura's contributions to areas in theoretical population genetics other than the neutral theory.

Kimura published two original papers in this journal, one in 1960 entitled 'Optimum mutation rate and degree of dominance as determined by the principle of minimum genetic load' (*J. Genet.*, 57: 21–34) and another in 1985 entitled 'The role of compensatory neutral mutations in molecular evolution' (*J. Genet.*, 64: 7–19). Kimura was also a member of the editorial board of this journal from 1985 until his death.

A special note of thanks to Dr Tomoko Ohta and Dr William Provine, guest editors of this issue, for organizing and editing these contributions within a short time.

H. SHARAT CHANDRA
Editor



Kimura on the occasion of the presentation of the Japanese Order of Culture (Emperor's medal), and with Tomoko Ohta in the computer room at the National Institute of Genetics of Japan at the time of his retirement in 1988.