

Feb. 22. 33

CRIPPS'S CORNER,
FOREST ROW,
SUSSEX.

Dear Fisher.

Glad you found the paper.
As to free-will, my difficulty is to
reconcile it with the uniformity of
vital statistics. I am trying to
put it on paper, but find myself
very muddle-headed. I do believe
in free will, whatever my reason
may say!

I like enclosed. You must
some day put all such thoughts
in a book. It seems to me that
a male with ^{racially} gain^{ing} by killing ^{the} ~~the~~
^{he finds} offspring for two reasons. (1) It will
shorten lactation, & therefore make
the female sooner ready to breed with

him. (2) Granted that the number, ^{best-}
looked after by the parents is
limited, his surviving offspring will
thus be increased, in certain circumstances.
I guess this is your idea - unless
again I am muddle headed.

Will not a man in life-
manner gain richly by killing
his father, if he, the son, lives
at home? Can we thus account
for the Oedipus complex?

I see no reason why a ~~father~~
mother should ever gain by
killing her own children.

Yours sincerely,

L.D.

P.S. Mothers always wish their daughter to marry; fathers do not. Fathers wish their son to go out into the world; mothers do not. In so far as the above are true, can they be similarly explained?

If a father kills the young of his own species - not his offspring - he gains by renewed competition for those offspring. He loses because his grandchildren kill each other, if inheriting the same instinct. Are there here some nice mathematical puzzles? Especially as to gain or loss of descendants - Keeping together in packs - No answer to all the possible sub-questions.