

July 15-35

CRIPPS'S CORNER,  
FOREST ROW,  
SUSSEX.

Dear Fisher.

I believe that I have not written to you for more than a year, and now I have nothing particular to say. I will begin with the only thing that may need an answer. I bought Genetics and the Origin of Species by Dobzhansky, and, though I am glad to have read it, I find it too technical to want to keep it. Have you a copy in your library? and if not would you like me to send it to you? It is a satisfactory work in confirming the view that natural

is the main evolutionary agency.  
It gives me the idea that a  
mutation will have had more  
effect than I supposed, and that  
but for natural selection, all  
species would have gradually  
deteriorated. If this is a correct  
interpretation, it is a bad look  
out for man!


My wife was ill in the spring,  
high blood pressure, a trouble  
about which doctors seem quite  
ignorant. She is all right again,  
but has to be more careful.

I wonder how your family are.  
What is my good son doing now?  
I don't want long answers, but  
a word or two in reply would  
be gratefully received.

I have written nothing for a long time, except a few mission connections to what is Eugenes, for a reprint. I do not count a few idle jottings for my own amusement; the best being on Sleep & dreams. Then again I recently thought-over my old friend the cuckoo problem. Have you ever thought-what wonderful memories birds must have? I imagine a young undergraduate taking his first trip abroad, it being in an aeroplane to Africa. Assume no one told him to take a special note of the route, and then, at the end of some months, he found his way back to his own college by air with little difficulty. This is what swallows do often. Now if the colour of the egg is a non-genic inheritance in

the female line, all we have to  
assume is that natural selection  
has implanted in all cuckoos  
a desire to lay their eggs in the  
kind of nest they issued from,  
and we have facts explained.  
And this would hardly be a  
more remarkable feat of memory.

I was glad to hear that  
your time in India must have  
been interesting.

As to myself I keep fairly  
well up to the mark for 88 

Yours sincerely

Alfred Darwin