

No hurry to answer.

Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> 32

CRIPPS'S CORNER,  
FOREST ROW,  
SUSSEX.

Dear Fisher

As I think I mentioned before, I have been writing some notes on Evolution &c, and I am going to ask you not only to read them, but, what is more difficult, pick them to pieces as much as you can. I have been doing this mainly to interest myself, as I now find writing difficult, and in consequence the results generally unsatisfactory. Galton gave the Romanes lecture when he was a good deal older than I am, and I confess I have sometimes

wondered whether I should ever  
hold forth again; and, if so,  
whether this subject would do.  
Galtin made the stipulation that  
if he did not feel equal to  
the strain, he might be absent,  
and get someone to read his  
lecture for him; and that did  
take place. I doubt if I should  
have the cheek to suggest such  
a condition. But, in truth, I only  
mention all this to show that  
if you conceal your real feelings,  
and praise when no praise is  
due, the consequence may be very  
serious!! I am also sending  
you a few separate notes in my  
own hand writing. Will you also  
kindly scribble your remarks in  
pencil opposite them also, and

return. As to the type written  
stuff, I may add something  
as to the way in which the  
way I have presented the  
Evolution problem reacts on  
Eugenetic propaganda. I feel  
nearly sure that you, and possibly  
a couple more, will be the only  
audience for these two efforts.

≡ Did you notice in the last  
Nature, in a review on an  
Entomological book by one  
Cameron, the following sentences?  
"The adherents to the theory of  
natural selection have invariably  
stressed ..... the effects of  
environment on the colour schemes  
of insects, they have entirely  
failed to realize that such a  
simple explanation is not

readily tenable since colour is  
the result of an intricate chain  
of ~~processes~~ chemico-physical  
processes within the organism."

Does not this show that the  
blighter has not the faintest idea  
how selection-acts? But I do  
not feel certain what he means.

Blood is red because the  
most-suitable chemical compound  
for the purposes is red. But  
blood is only used to give  
internal colour when that  
would be useful for other  
purposes - There is a lot to do  
to rub in natural selection  
yet

Yours sincerely

Alfred Russel

I ought to apologise heartily for  
giving you this trouble. I can only  
minimise it by sending envelope

in return.