

Dec. 18 - 31 -

CRIPP'S CORNER,  
FOREST ROW,  
SUSSEX.

Dear Fisher.

Please thank M<sup>rs</sup>.

Fisher for her kind letter. I  
focused very much that - it was  
some relapse after the operation,  
which is always alarming. You  
do seem to have had some  
trouble of that sort, which I  
hope will not amount to  
much. As to your work. I  
do not know if you have seen  
enclosed by my niece, M<sup>rs</sup>  
Barlow. I like her much, &  
believe her to be a careful

worker; but doubt if she has  
a really scientific mind.

In my last to you I  
sent a copy of a letter I  
wrote to A. Freeman and I  
think another enclosure. I guess  
if they ever reached you, it  
was ~~not~~ <sup>when</sup> you were at your  
worst with your infantile  
complaint. If they ever turn  
up, please send them back.  
If never seen again — well  
perhaps so much the better!

I am doing very little  
now. I have been writing a  
little paper on Evolution,  
which will probably go no  
where, unless I bother you  
with it! I suspect that the

following point has occurred to  
you. If a change of environment  
makes a harmful recessive  
mutation become beneficial, it  
will begin to win in the  
struggle, and will tend to  
become dominant all the time,  
by reversing the process you  
describe. This will at first help  
it to win in the fight; but  
finally it will delay the  
process, and help to keep the  
species more divergent about  
its mean than would otherwise  
have been the case. Is it fair  
to apply this reasoning to human  
beings? Is the way we are  
keeping mental defectives alive  
and propagating having a slight-

tendency to make this defect-  
less receiver, and thus to  
spread stupidity more  
broadly throughout the  
Nation? That is enough of a  
thought for a sick man!

My wife bought so —  
sodas for your children,  
which I hope may be  
acceptable for Xmas.

Yours sincerely,

Seward Dawson