

16 March 1931.

Major L. Darwin, B.C.D.,  
Cripps's Corner,  
FOREST ROW,  
Sussex.

Dear Major Darwin,

Yes, Huxley did say that about individualism, but quite tentatively, as an inference from my book. I expected that reaction from Haldane, who has made the same inference, but not from Huxley. I felt in writing the chapters on man that the great difficulty was to frustrate the people who want to use everything as a handy bludgeon in political controversy, and I reread everything I wrote in that light. It is not only Haldane, but I think also Hogben, who is influencing Huxley in this direction. What a curse it is that some of the few really good brains should be fascinated by sensationalism, but perhaps it would be worse if they all allowed themselves to be quietly ignored.

Naturally, finding class differences to be an essential feature of the dysgenic process in civilised life, I have tried to conceive the possibility of biologically progressive societies in which class distinction were unknown. At every point this seems to lead to an impasse. Man's only light seems to be his power to recognise human excellence, in some of its various forms. From this it follows that

actions, powers and functions cannot be of equal value. Promotion must be a reality, and the power of promotion a real wealth, whether we call our potentates kings or commissars. I do not believe that political capital of any sort can fairly be made out of my book; politically biassed people will, I think, <sup>merely</sup> ~~rarely~~ find it inconsistent, and these must be the great majority of readers.

It was largely this that made me so pleased with Hill's review.

Yours sincerely,