

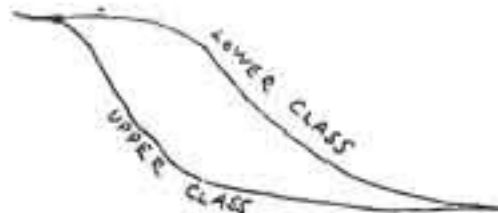
25 November 1930.

Maj. L. Darwin, C.D.,
Cripps's Corner,
Forest Row,
Sussex.

Dear Major Darwin,

If ever I broadcast I will bear your advice in mind!

I do not know what particular criticisms of the differential birth-rate evidence you have in mind, but I know there is a strong tendency to claim that in particular localities the difference has recently disappeared. Edin's article on Stockholm is an example. I think it is partly because on the theory of successive falls in the birth-rate in different classes



there should be a period of converging birth-rates following on the period of divergence, and the theory fathers the statement. For England and Wales the facts are much more like

LOWE CLASS

UPPER CLASS

and one cannot help suspecting that the claims now put forward are as defective as Edin's.

It does make one rather desperate to think that our General Registry Office will almost certainly not produce decent data within the next 40 years or so. However, we shall have ages of parents at birth registration if they keep faith, though not in time for comparison with the 1931 Census.

What do you think of this?

if insanity of a heritable type appears in a family of otherwise good stock, some members will abstain from parenthood from fear they might be tainted, although really free, and others will take the chance of being free although really tainted. Both processes, arising from ignorance, are dysgenic, and could be stopped if it were possible to test the blood of a patient for the defective gene, without its manifesting its defects somatically, either because it is recessive, or because the patient has not yet broken down.

Todd finds he can prepare a serum to which the corpuscles of every chicken, except one for which it has been specially exhausted, will react. If he exhausts for both parents he finds he has also exhausted for all their (joint) offspring. I infer that he is detecting primary gene products, for many secondary substances occur in offspring which are not in the

(3).

parents.

Yours sincerely,