

Oct-19. 30

CRIPPS'S CORNER,
FOREST ROW,
SUSSEX.

My dear Fisher.

Thanks for your long
letter about research. I suspect
that we differ somewhat in view,
but not as much as you seem to
think. What I now write is only
a few first impressions. I shall
put your letter aside, and
possibly write later. Knowing
Twitchin's views, as I believe I
do, that we certainly know
enough now to move effectively
in many directions, and that
persuasion is what is most wanted,
I do feel strongly about the use
of his money. As to other money

I should feel very differently. If we had a lot of free money, and decided quite legitimately to go in for research to a considerable extent, I should like somehow to divide the organisation more or less into two branches, research & propaganda, and in this way to avoid the danger I see of the propaganda being swamped. Does not the government put all its research work under more or less independent bodies, such as the Medical Research Council?

Moreover an old man like me - for I do now feel growing old - very old - ought not to dictate the policy to a growing society. He may leave behind him his views, to be considered, but not necessarily

to be followed. Market was very keen
to get his Population Union to take
up research; and my views would
have been carried out if that
body and Our Society could have
worked in close cooperation.

Then it seems to me our Review
would be a very good place to
advocate new lines of research,
even if the Societies is too poor
or itself unwilling or incapable
of directing the work. It is very
hard to find out what part the
Society has played in promoting
the great change in public
opinion which has taken place
— for I think there has been a
great change. I believe our International
Congress of 1912 did a good deal,
thousands then hearing the word
Eugenics for the first time. I incline
to the view that public opinion is
most affected by a constant war

of a flag, and that it is not
nearly so much a national process
as you seem to think. You may
say this is a low view. But it
can be followed without adopting
the low tricks of the politicians.
We turn in haste.

I am rather sorry they picked
out an old discontinued stick in
the mind like Purnett to review
you in Nature. But to get 5
columns is an excellent advantage.
My father would have been much
pleased with such a review of
the Origin, and nearly carefully
noted the points to answer in
his next edition. I think you
may be well pleased. I never
had so long a review.

Yours sincerely

D. Darwin