

Nov. 20 '36

CRIPPS'S CORNER,
FOREST ROW,
SUSSEX.

Dear Fisher.

I am not setting out to write you a long letter today; but I want to tell you how pleased I was to get your account of your American experiences. I did not know that Mrs. Fisher had gone also for a time. She does deserve a holiday if ever anyone did. Please tell her that Gwen Raverat is my niece, and that her "grandmother's home" is my old home at Down - a message I hope she will understand before long.

You speak, or I should say

write, of Pearson's sanity. I think I did tell you of one odd evidence I had on the subject, which I don't like to put on paper even, because it may be mere gossip. You may have seen that I wrote something about him in the English Review; which I did not find an easy job. They first asked one of his admirers, who flatly refused to write anything for the Review; and I was only given four days to collect material and send in the manuscript. Galton had the strange power of really liking him whilst clearly seeing his faults.

I had Cattell here to see me in the summer for an hour or two. I like him but feel him

to be very young in mind. He has not been able to follow Cromwell's advice - "conceise, gentlemen, that you may be mistaken"; advice which I must say generally falls on deaf ears. He is also too verbose in his writing. But it seems to me a very valuable bit of work; and the correlation between intellectual superiority with the size of the family is easier to work on than that with poverty. You must remember he is dealing with probabilities and not with individual cases. There seem to me to be three probable reasons why his results are likely to be true. Some time, later on, I shall be interested to know what you feel. I have written an

introduction for him — which
I felt I could not refuse
to do for the first d. D. scholar.

Well, I won't inflict more
on you today, partly because I
have a tiresome correspondence,
resulting from X reading a letter
I wrote to Y, and apparently
persuading him that it meant
something very different from
what it obviously did mean.

Yours sincerely

Leland Dawson