

March 14.36

CRIPPED CORNER,  
FOREST ROW,  
SUSSEX.

Dear Fisher.

I now return your very interesting paper about Mendel, which I think enhances his reputation. It looks to me as if he had first thought-out his theory before experimentation, & then perhaps made a few first-preliminary experiments which were not-recorded. If his assistants did fudge matters a bit, I am glad he did not find it out; for if he had there might have been another Kammara incident. I am

inclined to agree with him -  
possibly more than you do -  
when, as quoted on your p. 36,  
he says "it is willingly granted  
that by cultivation the origination  
of new varieties is favoured",  
or, in modern terms, the rate  
of mutation is increased. Since  
selection has for long ages been  
adapting species to the surroundings,  
this increased mutation may go  
on for long. But I also agree  
with the latter part of that  
sentence, and with your view  
that with blending inheritance  
natural selection will not do  
the trick. With pangeneis

inheritance is not purely  
blending; but I do not remember  
any proof that my father saw  
that the more the ancestral  
germules are called on to  
produce the next generation,  
the less power can selection  
have.

What a lot of work you  
do! I wish they would  
call on you to report on  
the experimentation on diet,  
which I suspect is done  
not too scientifically.

Yours sincerely,

Samuel Darwin