

18th. November, 1929.

Major L. Darwin, Sc.D.,
Cripps's Corner,
Forest Row,
Sussex.

Dear Major Darwin,

Pease has drawn up a most valuable Memorandum for some Labour Party advisory scientific body he belongs to, strongly embodying our Census demand. I added some comments, but not the point about order of birth, which is I think chiefly valuable rhetorically as showing how little extra would be of great value. For the U.S.A. I find the ratio Total births/First births 3.2 for whites and 3.8 for coloured people, and I think comparisons of this kind between occupations would be more valuable than the conventional completed families obtained from the Census, though both would be more valuable still.

Though in any one year the ratio will not probably be correct for the average completed family, yet each year would give a new set of ratios, and the ratios cannot be permanently over or under the mark; and its trend would be much more easily detected in annual than in Census values. Birth order is such a trifle to ask for, and misstatements of first births for later births or vice versa must be exceedingly

rare.

Yours sincerely,