

Oct. 4. 29

CRIPPS'S CORNER,
FOREST ROW,
SUSSEX.

My dear Fisher -

I have just been reading Haldane in Nature. I am glad to see that he mentions your work, and appears to see its importance. I do not see anything in the whole article which necessarily runs counter to your arguments. Things would work out more neatly from a mathematical point of view if all heredity was dependent on genes and small mutations. But we do know that sudden changes in chromosome number do take place, and that must be allowed for. It seems to

me his views mainly affect the way in which mutations may come about. But I have not read it quite carefully enough. He does not seem to realize the possibility that selection may slowly favour infertile or a kind between varieties. No answer, but if we meet next Wednesday tell me whether you object to what he says as representing what may be true

Yours sincerely

Lancelot Dawson

4th. October, 1929.

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

Dear Major Darwin,

I have seen the last three numbers of "Armchair Science" and though there have been some readable things, it really is not good enough for your article. I do not believe it can reach either the quantity or the ~~quality~~ quality of audience which it might.

Is it too late to think of "Science Progress" or "Discovery"; both give space to historical questions occasionally? If you are committed to "Armchair Science" it would not be impossible to publish in U.S.A., say in the "Journal of Heredity", where it would probably do a lot more good.

I know the circular spots on the undersides of the Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and Scotch Argus, but are they eyes? There are two points which might give a clue to their interpretation, one that they occur in series about 7 in the Ringlet, and secondly that the Meadow Brown and, I think, the Scotch Argus have one of them doubled. Is it possible that in twilight they look like dewdrops? a dark disc with a bright point. All these species haunt grasses, but I do not know if they roost on them. If so perhaps amphibians and reptiles are the enemies. I wish I were a naturalist.

I have just seen 'X.Y.Z.', and agree very generally. I fancy the rapid promotion of barbarians, who came in mostly as slaves, is significant of rapid social promotion generally, and probably of innate superiority at least in public spirit and social ambition of the barbarians. The lack of public spirit among the Romans is very striking, and just what should be expected.

Yours sincerely,