Dear Fisher.

I have begun by again reading Chap. VIII with great interest. The Social insects are of great interest. Your main point on p.17 is, I take it, that in wolves, for example, there are two opposing selective influences at work, one individual, preventing too much self sacrifice, either for family or pack, and the other tribal promoting it. With worker insects it is only the latter, nest selection, which is operative, and has worked wonders, having nothing to oppose it.

Chap. IX. p.1   You speak of chance. Does not chance in your sense mean correlation with differences of environment as against differences in heredity? This is a very important and interesting chapter. I have made a few quite unimportant notes in pencil.

Chap X is very interesting — and very dismal. You dont allude to Stevenson's last paper. That seemed to me important in regard to the death rates.

Chap XI. These chapters are so interesting that I wish they could have come earlier in the book. It takes a lot of thinking, and I feel I am no longer able in one reading — if at all — to criticize effectively. It seems all sound, as far as I can judge. But it is stiff.

Chap XII. My feeling on reading these chapters is that you have written a very important book, and

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one which will slowly — though slowly — influence public opinion. I am so much inclined to agree with your views that I don't feel it startling or alarming. I think you should look forward to the issue of a second edition, say ten years hence, and with that view keep keeping it up to date. P. you issue what is practically a new book on the basis of the old, and there is a good deal to be said for that plan. Reviews are difficult.

You must be glad that your task is finishing, and you have my congratulations

Yours sincerely

L Darwin

You must not be disappointed at a small sale. It is the kind of book to work through others.

I shall read it all again when published more slowly, & shall take more in.