2nd. April. 1929.
Despatched 3rd April.

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

Dear Major Darwin,

      I have the chapters back and wrote a reply which I find
is till waiting to be typed, so this will go with it.   My
estimate certainly does not include normal age promotion
through life, unless the Registrar General has confused the
issue by allowing older men, 40-60, who reproduce little to
get into different categories from the younger men who repro-
duce much.   I cannot think this is so in the broad classi-
fication actually used, but I have suspected in some of the very
early Dutch comparisons of children born to tax-paying and
non-taxpaying persons.   I believe it would not be too late
to get a note in the April number.

      Of course some real promotion takes place at all ages,
and if this is frequent may come to be regarded as normal.
If it is entirely an age promotion the children start
where their fathers did, and the estimate does not include
this.

      I have considered but not written about selection of
mutation rates, and I am convinced that they are too small

to make any difference. The only exception I should make is that deleterious mutations which have perhaps been occurring for millions of generations might in the course of time become very frequent, and this could be checked by Natural Selection. It is interesting that actually they do not seem to get beyond about 1 in 10^5, which seems to me a marvellously high level for Natural Selection to check them at. This is in _Drosophila_, plants are certainly different and we need to know more about them.

If I am right beneficial mutations where they are being selected must have rates about 10^{-9} or 10^{-12}, and a strain with double the average mutation rate would have no time to increase before the whole population has adopted the new mutation.

Do you not think Lancaster's suggestions about cave animals a good one? I do, and have included a paragraph in Chapter VI to emphasise it.

Yours sincerely,

I enclose the chapter so that you can see the context.