

Nov. 12. 35-

CRIPPS'S CORNER,
FOREST ROW,
SUSSEX.

Dear Fisher,

I think that I have before now warned you that - if I blow off a little scientific steam in my lazy hours by a letter to you that you are not to answer. I believe in your theory of the creation of recessives. Now would useful qualities tend to become dominant? I guess they would, but to a very much less extent. How could you test this hypothesis? Should not animals on a mainland be dominant when crossed with varieties on long separated islands, if that be so? Huxley has been moving about the Galapagos Islands, to give them their old name. That would afford the place for such an experiment. Did I give you a copy of the 2nd (Oxford) Edition of

the Origin? It has a preface by me, in which p VIII I mention the "secondary" whale. I have now a theory that this should be "imaginary"; but I have not hunted it up. But the point I want to make is this. The 2nd and 3rd paras of Chap I of the Origin, ^{6th Edit} seem to me very difficult to really understand; whilst in the 2nd Edition they seem much clearer. I wonder if it was only an effect of my brain, I feel as if my father was always searching for a clue finally given by Mendeleev, and that this search only made matters darker. I wonder if you would agree. If I had any scientific backing, I should like to make this another reason for advising students now to read the 2nd rather than the 6th Edition.

I hope that all goes well at the date, & that the boys flourish
Yours sincerely
Darwin Darwin