

P.S. MacB's letter is
a curiosity -

March 1. 29

CRIPPS'S CORNER,
FOREST ROW,
SUSSEX.

My dear Fisher.

You give me rather a
difficult conundrum to solve
about the professorship. I told
you that you were unlikely to
get into the R.S., especially
first shot, and if I now strongly
advise you not to begin to
count your chickens, I really
hope that I am equally at
fault. Even if you are to
get it, I am inclined to
think that the first effort

Should be to keep on or the
old times to a considerable
extent, whilst making the
value of the results bear some
relationship to the labour
involved. From this and other
points of view, it is well to
realize that those of the staff
who hold regular University
appointments - I do not know
how many do - cannot be got
rid of, even if you should desire
to do so. When at Bedford
College as Chairman I had a
very disagreeable fight on this
subject, in which I was worsted

by the Botanical "Trade Union".
Nothing short of murder is now
a sufficient excuse for seeking a
reader or other high official. This
will make them more independent,
and difficult to turn onto
new lines. They will, moreover,
all be more or less prejudiced,
I suppose, against anyone who
is connected with the Eugenic
Society, and taking over such a
staff may make the job rather
far from a bed of roses. Those
who could stay with Pearson
became, as far as I could see,
his willing slaves, and that spirit
won't wear off quickly. It will
also probably effect the chances
of your appointment. The Board

consists of (1) outsiders of highest
standing (2) members of the University
(3) members of the College. If
Pearson is alive, he will put his
hands to get the last two lots
appointed so as to back his
nominee. And you must admit
that you have not always dealt
with him in the gentlest way.
And as to the outsiders, they
must and are right to be
a good deal influenced by what
the University people say as to
the probabilities of smooth running.
I am writing exactly what I think,
even at the risk of saying what
is disagreeable, and showing myself
a false prophet. But that is, I
am sure you will recognize, what
should be done by a true friend

Yours sincerely

Leonard Darwin