

July 5-28. Cupps's Corner. Forest Park. Sussex.

Dear Fisher

Mark Twain tells somewhere how he could only get some lines, which were running in his head, out of his mind by telling them to a friend. I have been thinking over your dominance theories, and I want to blow off steam, and get rid of my thoughts. Mark Twain did not make nonsense of the poetry, and did not get rid of them onto the poet. So the cases are not quite parallel.

You bring in the idea of modifying factors. If these are separate entities, must we not suppose that a species has now modifying factors for every past mutation, if now recessive, which ever occurred? Moreover, why should not there be modifying factors in the mutant also?

Can we get a snibler way of putting your theory by assuming that the original species,  $O$ , has some individuals ( $O^+$ ) which are more dominant, and some ( $O^-$ ) which are less dominant to the mutant  $M$ . Also that the same is true of  $M$ , some ( $M^+$ ) being less recessive to  $O$ , and some ( $M^-$ ) being more recessive to  $O$ . At first  $O \times M$  gives rise to an intermediate form  $I$ . But some ( $I^+$ ) will be nearer to  $O$ , and some ( $I^-$ ) further off  $O$  than the mean.