

Feb. 25. 28

GRIPPS'S CORNER,
FOREST ROW,
SUSSEX.

My dear Fisher.

This is certainly a very interesting paper. I was at first a little disappointed to find that cuckoos have territories. But if they had acquired the territory habit before they became parasitic, that habit would, I suppose, be useful because of the limited number of fosterer's nests. All about the kicking out and covering up the cuckoo's eggs is all news to me. It makes the imitation of the fosterer's egg

Cease to be such a wonder.
I suppose there is, at all events,
no theoretical reason why the
male should not be entirely
without influence on the colour
of the eggs of his descendants.
And natural selection would
work to produce that result.
On another point, does not
the benefit to be derived from
recognizing the strange egg
account for the great differences
in the colour of eggs? The
casual parasite would not have
the colour changed, and it is
evidently inconvenient for cuckoos

to have to lay eggs of different-
colours. The more one thinks
about selection, the more things it
can account for. ~~It~~ Animals in
caves will swim to the light,
& blind animals are thus
selected to stay inside. Moreover
inside blindness may be an
actual advantage, just as a
blind man finds his way in
the dark better than you or
I. But this may be an old
story.

Thank you for letting me see

them -

Yours sincerely

Lennard Dawson
