

Do you by any chance remember the year  
in which the Medical Research Council  
turned down our proposal for stock taking?  
I should like to know, mainly out of curiosity.  
So don't trouble if you have no clue. I  
believe I sent them that memo. But I  
do not think it was published in our  
Review. I can't find it there. No answer  
if your mind is a blank, like mine

L.D. May 10.  
~~Apr~~ 35

10th May, 1935

Major L. Darwin,  
Cripp's Corner,  
Forest Row,  
Sussex

Dear Major Darwin.

No: I really was meaning to say something to encourage the Society in political activity, as in respect of sterilisation. For one thing, I think this would do the Society good in discouraging our ever-present danger of being associated with crankery. Our <sup>political</sup> parties are less <sup>distinguished</sup> than <sup>distinct</sup> they were, and may remain so for some time; so there might even be room for persons of predominantly Eugenic interest in one of the existing parties. I do not know what you think, but possibly Blacker would make a very good candidate. If it will amuse you, I will send you a copy of my address as soon as I have it.

Some years ago, I put in a lot of work on the twin data collected by Dr. Thorndyke from the New York schools, and came to the conclusion that they indicated a degree of resemblance intermediate between ordinary brothers and sisters and two identical twins; that is, I postulate such semi-identical twins from identical ova and different sperms, as you suggest. These would, as often as not, be of unlike sex. But later, I

obtained more extensive and in other ways better data from Dr. Lauterbach, also in the States, and found that his material could be interpreted on quite orthodox lines as a mixture of identical and non-identical twins; so I withdrew my rash speculation with due humility, and have since given McBride the credit for telling me that I must be wrong - as indeed he very confidently did! But I do not think that it is "bosh," only that it is untrue, or so rare as to be unimportant.

One reason why we are working at the medical inspection records is to give the Ministry a chance of seeing that they are not worthless as a basis for a national survey, and this, I am afraid, is the first necessary step before they will take any interest in improving them for this purpose, or enlarging their scope to include mental tests.

I am, myself, quite sure that comparable data could be compiled from year to year, in both physical and mental measurements.

Yours sincerely,