

June 17<sup>th</sup> [1927]

CRIPPS'S CORNER,  
FOREST ROW,  
SUSSEX.

My dear Fisher,

I return herewith the memorandum on which I have no criticisms to offer. It is as you say a heavy job and I fear I am throwing all the weight on you. This I cannot help, but the whole topic is now somewhat beyond my powers. You do not say what you intend to do

about seeing Stevenson. Shall  
you send him a revised  
copy of the printed memo,  
then offer to see him? You  
must judge but I guess  
this will be best. I said  
originally that this matter  
would need very tactful  
handling, for Stevenson is  
not quick at the uptake.  
You must try to look at  
it as a game which you  
wish to win, or a big fish

which you are trying to land.

You say that the ages of children at the death of the parent is wanted. I am inclined to agree with Stevenson that the ages of deceased children could not be given with accuracy in a large number of cases. Could we here get a peg on which to hang a plea for some decent system of registration? Each man and woman ought

to have a card kept at the Registrar General's Office and on it the birth and death of every child should be entered as it occurs, in this way only would you get really satisfactory results. Stevenson would tell you that a system of this sort has been considered at his office.

You still seem to have some difficulties to overcome in deciding on to the exact system to be aimed at. I am much afraid that I cannot give you any further help, though I have great confidence that you are endeavoring to march in the right direction.

Yours sincerely  
L. Darwin  
(per M.D.)

P.S. In answer