

Apr-29  
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Cripps's Corner.  
Forest Row-  
Sussex

My dear Fisher

I am taking an idle moment to scribble  
a line mainly for my own amusement.

Tredgold has written an article in the  
Cent. Assoc for Mental Welfare <sup>Rev</sup> (separately published  
I think) on Sterilization. I thought it good the first  
time I read it. Then on second careful reading it  
seemed to me that he was drifting into pure  
environmentalism. This made me think whether  
twins could help to solve the problem. Get a  
return of all twins in institutions for the  
feeble in mind, saying what sex they are.  
If same sexed to different sexed twins  
bore the same proportion to each other as  
in the normal population, would this  
indicate that mental defect was not  
due to prenatal environment? The snag  
I see is that mothers might say I wish

Let the f.m. boy go to an institution but not  
the f.m. girl, and that this might upset  
the ratio. But I am not sure if it really  
would in any case tell anything. All I  
mean is when reading that book and at  
other times I hope you will keep this problem  
in mind. We have not won the heredity  
fight yet

If I had to write my book again I think  
I should make still more of the similarity  
of the laws of natural and of environmental  
inheritance, even to accounting for  
regression. The big difference seems to be that  
the one is cumulative and the other  
at all events can so. But this is also  
a half thought out thought. No answer

Yours sincerely

L. Darwin

Last time I wrote to you was about insanity  
when I now know I wrote bosh.

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P.S. I am always writing you  
p.s.'s. I think it would probably  
be more to the point to get  
a return of twins, one f.m. and  
the other not, together with their  
sexes.

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L D