

Grimby Hall. Bough-le-Mearsh

Sat. 10.11.1920

Dear Fisher.

My way of working lately has been to think of something; write a letter to you on the subject; post it; and then reconsider and come to the conclusion it is all bosh. I hope I am no doing ditto.

This now seems to me a simple way to look at the problem. The average number of a family in a stable population who marry = 2. Let all marry at the same age. Let  $U$  = number in family who do not marry by then. Let  $D$  = number in family who die before that date. Let  $X$  be number born, all these being averages. Then  $X = 2 + U + D$ .

If parents take great care of their children, they are approaching the limit  $X = 2 + U$ . If the stock is becoming more reckless, all will marry when they can, and the limit  $X = 2 + D$  is being approached.

These 2 limits in some ways indicate the difference between a high & low caste. Would  $U$  or  $D$  be biggest? In some French aristocratic classes  $U$  was large. But I gather  $D$  in the poorer castes would be bigger than  $U$  in the upper, and therefore that the lower castes are fertile by nature. You have probably written to me on this, and I guess I shall take your suggestion. So do

not trouble to acknowledge this.

A wedding from this house on Tuesday,  
and the fuss gets hourly greater

Yours

J. Dawson

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