

Gumbly Hall. Bugh-le-Mare.
Drisc. Jan 22. [1926]

My dear Fisher.

I have just returned to the consideration of the paragraph about which you have taken so much trouble. I have decided to put it in, changing one sentence only. Instead of -

"It must, however, remain doubtful whether this argument can lead us seriously to modify ..."

I put in "It is, however, ^{also} question^{able} to what extent; if at all, this argument should lead us to modify ...".

I think I still attach more importance to

U than you do. With women in India parental influence is all important in marriage in the higher castes. In France the dot makes a vast difference, I believe, even amongst the lower middle classes; the larger the family, the smaller the dot; and hence there must be in each rank an optimum family

practically most who marry in their rank.

I am sorry to say I now find mathematical reasoning difficult to follow; but in your letter I think you have stated the problem correctly. I had in my mind a statutory condition of things, when

I think $X = 2 + D + V$; and I was considering how that arose. There must have been, I imagine an optimum D and an optimum V ; or perhaps I should say an optimum X dependent on D and on V . And selection made X produce these optimum numbers. I agree that all this is highly theoretical, for it assumes a long continued stationary population, which has not ~~continued~~^{existed} in mankind for some centuries anyhow. I shall have another go at your last letter someday.

Whatever happens I know I shall not repent putting in this paragraph, and I am equally certain I shall continue to be thankful for your help. If my book helps to induce you to write on the mathematics of evolution it will have served its turn, as I say in my preface.

Comparative sanity reigns in this home to day, with the wedding behind us.

Yours truly

Leonard Darwin