

8/1/26

Gunby

~~BROOKS'S,~~

~~ST. JAMES'S STREET, S.W.1.~~

TEL. GERRARD 3746.

Dear Fisker.

I have been thinking over what I gave you to read, and am inclined to think I have blundered. I may get a letter from you at Gunby, but in case you have not yet written, this is merely to let you know the way my mind is working, in case it should save you trouble. Of course high fecundity makes for

death
a high ~~birth~~ rate, but
I am by no means sure
that a high death rate
makes for high fecundity.
I am inclined now to
think it may in the
upper class. Where conditions
are good nature is mainly
striving to produce families
of such a size ~~of~~ that the
maximum number marry
— not the maximum which
survive to be independent
of parents, as in animals.

Hence where the death
rate is higher, more must
be born to produce the
maximum number who
marry. This is somewhat
on the lines of the second
paragraph of what I sent
you. This mistake is
troubling my old brain a
good deal. Don't answer this,
for I much fear I shall
have to write it all out
again, and then I shall
be tempted to worry you
again. What I want to

show, or rather what I believe is that even under the most rigid caste conditions, the upper strata come to be naturally more infertile. Natural selection is hampered in trying to promote fecundity by social conditions. No more now

Yours apologetically

L. Darwin
in haste