

Jan 4th 1926

Gunby Hall,
Burgh le Marsh,
Lincolnshire.

My dear Fisher,

I am now drifting to the conclusion that having squared the opposition to Carter being app^t hon. Sec. that would be the best step to take. If that were done at the next Council meeting I should think that every further step which had to be taken with the approval of the Research Com^{tee} could be done as an administrative measure

by the officers. If it were brought
about in this way it might
save Tidbitter's feelings
with regard to his app^t as
hon. Sec. to the Comtee and it
could be done in a way less
hurtful to Mrs. Hodson's
feelings. I feel sure that
she is greatly upset by the
whole business. This reminds
me of another matter I wanted
to mention to you, Mrs.
Hodson had practically her
whole summer spent by the
exceedingly hard and disa-
=quelling work of moving into
our new premises, followed
by many disagreeables when

we got there. She has in con-
-sequence asked me if
she can take a holiday
towards the end of January
for about three weeks. I think
she fully deserves it and I said
I would mention the matter at
the Council. I shall be sleeping
at Brook's St. James Street
S.W. 1 on Tuesday & Wednesday
the 5th and 6th inst. I
This I mention in case you
should want to communicate
with me. No more to-day

In haste yours sincerely
L. Dawkins

for C.R.D.

P.T.O

P.S.

As long as Mrs. Hodson is at the office the other members of the staff must regard her as being their chief, this is another reason for making any change in administrative methods through her orders and not over her head.

Gurley. Jan. 4. 26.

Dear Fisher.

I am scribbling this for my own amusement. The idea I wanted to suggest when I had to fill up that space was as follows, though I could not then develop it. There are 3 causes of variations: — (1) differences of environment; (2) mutation of the previous generation (3) the differences in the genes in the previous generation, and the Mendelian shuffling of the pack. As to (1) probably selection can do nothing by acting on this range of variation. As to (2) the mutations come so infrequently that we have get variations on which selection can as a rule act with negligible effect. It is (3) that gives the true basis for the action of selection, and it is the range of these variations which ^{is} determined by the opposing influences of mutation and selection. This is all stale to you, and I think I only really write it down because I want to add another thought. I have assumed somewhere in my book that these are the only causes of variation. I now see that this may not be true, but I can't bother to put it right in my book. If life is a form of vibrations; if two uniting genes have different periods of vibration; if amount of differences in the phases of the two vibrations when the genes unite has

an effect on the resulting organism; then
under all these conditions there would be
~~no~~ non hereditary variations in a uniform
Environment. There are conceivably other ways
which would bring about the same result, things
I cannot conceive them. The variation I speak of
would be correlated with differences in time but
not with differences in surroundings. This possibility
is of some importance, for it makes a hole in the
argument that the non-hereditary character of
variations in pure lines proves that environmental
differences are not inherited. Now I have blown
off steam. Don't answer. As I say this to
amuse myself

Yours sincerely

L. Darwin

There is a bad book by Jennings & Huxford
which wants slaughtering.