

November 5. ~~1924~~ [1924] JHB

CRIPPS'S CORNER,  
FOREST ROW,  
SUSSEX.

Dear Fisher,

I no doubt was muddled when I wrote to you, <sup>maybe</sup> muddled still, so don't trouble to reply unless I hit on something which you have 'nd yourself fully thought out. I shall no doubt see the thing clearer in time.

This is now how I look on it. A Couple (A) have

one daughter whilst a couple  
(B) have two daughters. The  
solitary daughter will no doubt  
have some advantage over  
the pair in the matter of mar-  
-riage. but if the couple A  
are ~~more~~ <sup>more</sup> likely to have descen-  
-dants than the couple B,  
the solitary girl must be  
twice as likely to marry  
as ~~the~~ either of the two be-  
-longing to the pair. This  
is improbable of course.  
Thus the Cobb effect <sup>may</sup> ~~does~~  
not show itself amongst  
members of the same social  
class. But must not some-  
-thing of the same kind be  
said as to rising from  
one class to another?

Must not the social advantages  
possessed by the solitary girl  
make her twice as likely to  
rise into the upper classes  
as compared with each of the  
pair of girls in order to  
produce sterility in the upper  
strata. This may be the  
case; but it is not evident.  
Qualities like prudence or au-  
thority will make parents  
limit their families and  
also the offspring tend to  
rise into the upper classes.  
But I do not see how an  
instinctive dislike to limit-  
ing the size of the family  
would be equally certain to  
be transferred to the higher  
social strata.

I daresay I shall see you  
joint clean soon. I  
wanted to blow off steam  
on the joint to-night.  
Don't trouble to write if  
there is an obvious reply,  
in no doubt I shall see  
it in time.

Yours sincerely

J. D.

Jan 1. M.D.

If a middle class heir is <sup>only</sup> 4 times as  
likely to catch a po. as one of 5 sisters  
the mother of the 5 will be more likely  
to be step mother to a peer than the  
mother of the heir. Did Galton see this?  
I did not. The tendency to catch po. is  
great, and it may work with us Galton though  
But will it work minus social advantages?