

Oct-21 [1924]

CRIPPS'S CORNER,
FOREST ROW,
SUSSEX.

Dear Fisher

Thanks for your second letter which I am sorry I put you to the trouble of writing. I corrected my chapter by striking out the phrase "increasing population" and inserting "over population at the present time."

But perhaps I shall add a note somewhat as follows

- Statistical enquiries it is true, indicate the

probability that our population
will begin to decrease before
long, and, if this be so,
our over-population might
also cease at a later date.

But with a decreasing popu-
-lation the need for
making a decrease in the
birth rate of the world may
become even more urgent;
In measures calculated to
increase the birth rate are
likely to be advocated in such
circumstances, as is now the
case in France, without any
reference to the effect on

the quality of the population.

It is generally implied that Natural Selection only acts when a population tends to increase; but it seems to me it would always act unless all combinations of genes are equally likely to survive and unless no harmful mutation occurs.

Don't trouble to write on this last point as no doubt we shall meet before long.

I will write soon about the Review, a matter which requires some consideration.

Yours sincerely

Charles Darwin