My dear Fisher.

If you could answer the following question in a few words, and not too mathematically, I should be grateful; but if it means a long reply, please don't think of giving it. If A is positively correlated with B, and B is positively correlated with C, what conditions if any have to be fulfilled to enable one to argue from these facts that A is correlated with C. I had better give the specific point in my mind. It will be generally admitted that (1) wages are correlated with certain

qualities, which I will lump
together under the title of wage
earning capacity. (2) Wage earning
capacity must be correlated with
certain innate qualities, which
I will call innate wage earning
capacity. There being granted, can
I straight away conclude that
wages are correlated with innate
wage earning capacity? As to
(2) if wages are not perfectly
correlated with environmental
differences, they must be correlated
with germinal differences, and no
non-hereditary germinal differences

are known to exist.

I have not yet begun to tackle numerical prognosis. But thinking over it rather vaguely, I come to the conclusion that a good deal of weight must be attached to the general colour, so to speak, of the pedigree, whether it is much dotted with black or with white spots.

Yours sincerely
L. Darwin