

Jan 19.34.

CRIPPS'S CORNER,

FOREST ROW,

SUSSEX.

Dear Fisher.

Many thanks for yours  
and enclosure. But first of  
all I want to congratulate you  
on the unannounced report issued  
yesterday. The absence of previous  
findings makes it far more  
valuable. I might have hampered  
voluntary sterilization even if  
I had had my way; but I  
might have been wrong! And  
if right, it will come in time.  
I see that Dr Scott & Miss Fox  
have a letter in today's Times,  
their object being to hint, I

gather, that it is really their  
doing. Now I feel that the  
Eugenic Soc. does deserve some  
credit; but I hope <sup>they</sup> will not  
ask for it. As to your  
philosophy, I shall like to read  
it again; but I shall wait  
till I am sufficiently well; for  
mine is not a philosophical brain.  
As to mutations, I wonder if I  
catch your point rightly. All  
organisms are very well  
adapted to their surroundings.  
Therefore big single mutations are  
practically certain to be harmful.  
Selection is between combinations  
of slightly differing genes, and in  
that way the general scheme of an  
organism cannot be altered..

With this kind of selection, does  
not one form of selection hinder  
another? Dogs have worse sight  
and better smelling power than we  
have; though better sight would  
be an advantage to them. It is  
an example, I hold, of how  
sensing slowly ~~are~~<sup>old</sup> organs are  
perfected. I have been reading  
Wells, Wells & Huxley's huge book  
on Biology, and they emphasize  
the uniformity of plan in  
animals. On another point,  
I remember suggesting to you that  
the colour of cuckoo's eggs is a  
sex-linked quality in the female  
line. I see someone in Nature has  
taken up this idea, which gets  
over a lot of difficulties. It might  
be a case of non-Mendelian  
inheritance - an idea you do not  
like. I have heard nothing

of Ford and Lamarckian for  
a long time. I wonder if he  
is moving. I think you want  
attacking also. There is plenty  
of theory to attack yet, and I  
want you to make as a very  
important part of your life's  
work to keep your General Theory  
always up to date <sup>always to be</sup> and <sup>the</sup>  
most important <sup>existing</sup> work on the  
subject, whom else writes. You  
should add several sections to  
it. It will be in these directions  
- in theoretical discussion - that  
your genius will bear much  
best fruit, and I hope you  
will stick to it as far as  
possible. Excuse a long rambling  
letter.

Yours sincerely

Samuel Darwin