

C_O_P_Y.

CRIPPS'S CORNER,
FOREST ROW,
SUSSEX.

26 July 1933.

Dear Fisher:

On another subject: Amongst other interesting papers (as they say) in Eugenic News for May-June 1933, Mr Paul Huxford argues that if, as believed by Sir Francis Galton and yourself, girls from small families make better marriages, the sibships of husbands should be larger than the sibships of wives, whilst the figures he gives do not show that this is the case. There are two points, however, which he seems to have overlooked. (1) Men belonging to small families have probably some consequent advantages in the marriage market, and this will produce an effect on the relative sizes of the sibships the opposite to that above mentioned. (2) Girls belonging to families smaller than the average of their social class may rise somewhat in the social scale on marriage, that is to say will marry into a class where on the average families are smaller. In this way the anticipated relationships between the sizes of the paternal and maternal sibships may be lessened or even reversed. And as the same effect is produced by girls belonging to large families falling in the social scale on marriage, the statistical results being uncertain is not surprising. The most important consideration to bear in mind in this connection is, however, that the innate mental qualities of both

husbands and wives which make for infertility are being continually selected out of the lower into the higher strata of society in consequence of the social advantages enjoyed by small families, and that this is the main source of the greatest existing danger to our race, the differential birth-rate. There is nothing in Mr. Popenoe's figures to throw doubt on this conclusion.

Now I suggest that you should write a note on this subject in our Review—if you agree with the above. I do not like writing now, from lack of self-confidence. But I shall be really pleased if you care to bag unacknowledged any of the above, for it is but a trifle.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) LEONARD DARWIN.

No answer expected.

Here is another point to work out. Parents have a circle of friends of a given size on the average. Therefore members of a big family will have less choice each than members of small families. I cannot think out what racial effects this will have. Bad I think.