

Cripps's Corner. Fresh Air. Sunday. 3/4/33

Dear Fisher.

It is very good of you to trouble yourself so much about my free will. I fear we must conclude that we cannot cross over our thoughts, one to the other, and this makes me suspect I must have a blind spot in my mental eye. But it does not much matter, as I have no thought of publishing. I came across this sentence in Bohr's writing in Nature yesterday. "I think we all agree with Newton that the real basis of science is the conviction that nature under the same conditions will always exhibit the same regularities": the reason being, I think, that present events are rigidly connected with past events. Some great souls think that nature is indeterminate, but there I cannot agree, and am glad to find some on my side; vide enclosed, which bears. If there are 150 suicides this year, I believe that in the same circumstances exactly there must be <sup>exactly</sup> 150 next year; I think it is for you to show cases where similar previous events show different subsequent events because of free will; and, if you cannot, free will anyhow counts for very little, instead of being the most important thing in the whole world, as I hold <sup>it to be</sup> when in my libertarian mood - But it is no good wasting your time any more. I have been interested for long in this question, ever since I wrote a rough draft of what I wrote

in Eugenic Reform. pp 510 & 511, and showed it to  
a clever lady professor of philosophy at Bedford  
College, who gave it more or less her blessing.  
But - we had better close this book, or we shall  
go on for ever.

I guess I shall send you what I have written  
about the uniformity of unsexed characters before  
long. After that I hope I shall not trouble you  
much more!

Yours sincerely

L D Owen.