July 5-28. Cripps's Corner, Forest Row, Sussex

Dear Fisher,

Mark Twain talks somewhere how he could only get some lines which were running in his head, out of his mind by telling them to a friend. I have been thinking over your dominance theory, and I want to blow off steam and get rid of my thoughts. Mark Twain did not make nonsense of the poetry, and did not get rid of them onto the poet. So the case are not quite parallel.

You bring up the idea of modifying factors. If these are separate entities, must we not suppose that a species has now modifying factors for every past mutation, to now receive, which were occurred? Moreover, why should not there be modifying factors in the mutant also?

Can we get a sniffer way of putting your theory by assuming that the original species, O, has some individuals (O+) which are more dominant, and some (O-) which are less dominant to the mutant M. Also that the same is true of M, some (M+) being less reactive to O, and some (M-) being more reactive to O. At first O X M gives rise to an intermediate form I. But some (I+) will be reactive to O, and some (I-) further off O than the mean.