Jan 4th 1926

Gunby Hall,
Burgh le Marsh,
Lincolnshire.

My dear Fisher,

I am now starting in the conclusion that having squared the opposition to the scheme being approved, that would be the best step to take. If that were done at the next Council meeting, I should think that every further step which had the later approval of the Research Committee could be done as an administrative measure.
by the officers. If I were brave about it this way it might have Sibbald’s feelings with regard to his affair as him. See, to the Comite and it could be done in a way less harmful to Mrs. Hordson’s feelings. I feel sure that she is greatly upset by the whole business. This reminds me of another matter I wanted to mention to you. Mr. Hordson had practically her whole summer spent by the exceedingly hard and disa-


nable work of putting into the new premises, followed by many disagreeables when
we got there. She has an em-
sequence asked me if she can take a holiday
Towards the end of January
For about three weeks, I think
She fully deserves it and I said
I would mention the matter at
The Council. I shall be staying
At Brooke’s St. James Street
S.W. 1 on Tuesday & Wednesday
The 5th and 6th inst.
This I mention in case you
Should want to communicate
With me. No more to-day
In haste Yours sincerely
L. Darwin
On 9.2.8
P.T.D.
P.S.

As long as Mr. Hudson is at the office and other members of the staff must regard him as being their chief, this is another reason for making any change in administrative methods through his orders and not over his head.
Dear Fisher,

I am scribbling this for my own amusement. The idea I wanted to suggest when I had to fill up that space was as follows. Though, I could not then develop it. There are 3 causes of variation:

1. Differences of environment;
2. Mutation of the parent generation;
3. The differences in the genes in the parent generation, and the Mendelian Shuffling of the pack. As to (1) probably selection can do nothing by acting on this range of variation. As to (2) the mutation come so infrequently that we have got variation on which selection can as a rule act with negligible effect. It is (3) that gives the true basis for the action of selection, and it is the range of these variants which are determined by the opposing influences of mutation and selection. This is all stale to you, and I think I only really write it down because I want to add another thought: I have assumed some there in my book that there are the only causes of variation. Now I see that this may not be true, but I can't bother to put it right in my book. If life is a form of vibration if two uniting genes have different periods of vibration if amount of differences in the phases of the two vibrations when the genes unite has
an effect on the resulting organisation; then under all these conditions, there would be, 
non hereditary variations in a uniform 
environment. There are conclusively other ways 
which would bring about the same result, things 
such as can not conceive them. The variation I speak of 
would be correlated with differences in time but 
not with differences in surroundings. This possibility 
is of some importance for if it makes a hole in the 
argument that the non hereditary character of 
variations in pure lines proves that environmental 
differences are not inherited. Now I have blown 
off steam. Don't answer. As I say to amuse myself 

Yours sincerely

J. D. 

There is a bad book by J. Trumey, 1st edition, 
which wants slaughtering.