Jan 29. 23

My dear Fisher.

As to your interesting but letter, after Ruggles-Gates singularly dull lecture I made a few remarks in which by chance I anticipated what I am now inclined to say. I touched on the distinction between single factor qualities and those due to many factors, the former generally demanding general legislation and the latter individual selection.

I pointed out that nearly all the cases he mentioned were single factor and bad qualities. Why this contrast? If genius had been due to a single factor, it would have been worth millions to try to pick out a male and female homozygous and mate them. But such a thing never occurs, I suppose these bad single factor qualities are due to something dropping out of the genes. This would naturally lead to recessive qualities as a rule, but I don't see that it would inevitably follow. But why should there be useful single factor qualities created in equal numbers and therefore often found in nature? I suppose this by the selection of...
an organ being such an extremely complex and slow business that a number of genes are always, or nearly so, involved in the affair. The meaning of hair colour, I think, as a single factor quality. Plain hair colour is so relatively simple an affair that we can more easily conceive one factor only being involved.

Your cats are more difficult to deal with. It sounds to me as if crossing had something to do with it. But that only puts back the difficulty. Must pattern be quite as complex an affair as it seems at first? Can there be any lines of growth which help in the distribution of colour, and which remain anyhow? I can only conclude that the genes in these cases have been slowly evolved, and I do not now see how this is to be done without assuming the presence of slightly differing allelomorphs between which selection is possible.

I don't think the above is quite

writing, but it is all I have to say,

MacBride does talk rubbish, but I may

mispronounce Darewski. Yours sincerely,

L. Darlow
Jan 29 23
Cripps's Corner,
Forest Row,
Sussex.

P.S to Cat letter

I have got your other letter, but not digested it yet. I am rather ashamed of having sent you so much trouble.

I think the States have treated you badly. But I hope you will think twice before resigning. The fault lies with almost 2 or 3 individuals, even if more nominally consent. These men go in time and the affair is quite forgotten. Do you now protest to the Council or resign? You will get the reputation unjustly.
of being very touchy and easily put out. That reputation will not die out easily.
Therefore you will lose by any action. The dignified course is that which makes you appear to say "I don't care a damn what you do or say". Fugue the writing than plainly.

L.D.