May 19

22

Sthrock, Stone
Stafford.

My dear Fisher

I have been settling my London house, and
leaving a troublesome inheritance, and other worries,
all now over, but I think they made me exceptionally
muddle headed. I now think I see things more clearly.
Assuming (1) the existing diversity of human types, and
(2) that the inferior type are always the more fertile;
then (A), if the inheritance is Mendelian, there will be
a continuous distribution with the lowest type alone
surviving as the ultimate end, whereas, if the
inheritance is (B) perfectly blended, it will end in
perfect uniformity somewhat below the existing mean
(type). If this be, it shows how important is this
difference, a fact I had not really appreciated. My
Edinburgh lecture is in abeyance since the; but if I
ever deliver it and publish it, and if you ever print
anything on this point, I should like to refer to it.

I am now bothering myself about a paper
for the Feeble-minded Association — hardly the correct
title — and fear my muddle may not all have
gone. Is it correct to write as follows? May one
reverse the picture as I have done?

"... and from past experience it may be concluded that—probably between 85 to 90 per cent of amenés are the products of a defective gene or plasma" (Tredgold). Accepting this as a rule, we may lay it down as a law that if parenthood be permitted in the case of a mentally defective person, and of a family tree is thus, as it were, created which spreads out into the future to the same extent as the investigated pedigree spread out with regard to the past, it would be found in a (cases out of 10 by be or "pronounced neuropathic stock" (Tredgold) and to consist an excessive proportion of mentally defective, insane, epileptic, & paralytic persons.

It is the "in 9 cases out of 10" that I am a little doubtful about; whether this can be detected from only 85 to 90 % being the product of defective stock, and that stock being characterized as described.

It is a shame to bother you; but a single hint in reply would be a kindness. I have to get this job done by a certain date.

Yours sincerely,

J. Darrow.