

PRIZE RECORDS OF FAMILY FAULTIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—You were so good as to give much publicity last January to my offer of prizes. Permit me, as the last day for sending in the records has just gone by, to send you a brief estimate of the value of the response to my offer, so far as a very hasty inspection warrants. That value has far exceeded my expectations. I have received very little trash, and upwards of 150 good records of different families. Many of these are admirably drawn up; concise, full of information, and offering numerous opportunities of verification. As each of these returns refers to 14 direct ancestors of the children of the family and to many of the brothers and sisters of each of them, the mass of anthropological material may be inferred. It certainly refers to more than 5,000 persons, and as the data are all entered in my bound tabular forms, the records form a long row of thin quarto volumes, severally labelled and easily accessible. It is a unique anthropological collection. The writers are chiefly persons of the upper and middle classes of society; they are male and female in nearly equal proportions, and the two sexes write equally well, so far as I can thus far judge. The letters that accompanied the records are full and friendly, expressing a trust that I can assure them will not be misplaced of my treating the information as strictly confidential. In many cases they express the great interest that the inquiry into their own family histories has been to them. Permit me to add that I do not think it possible to determine the prizes in much less than two months, and that besides publishing the awards I propose to send a copy of them to the private address of every substantial competitor. Thanking you sincerely for the large and timely assistance you gave in making this prize offer widely known,

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

No. 42, Rutland-gate, S.W.

FRANÇOIS GALTON.