

1st February, 1954.

My dear Chester,

I regret to say I felt impelled to send off today the letter of which the enclosed is a copy. Although signed by Gertrude the letter received started "Dear Sir". It made a number of complaints <sup>but</sup> though suggested no coherent action.

Obviously if any complaints were to be made they should have been brought forward and discussed at Bellagio, now nearly six months ago. Of course also I wrote the paper <sup>[\*]</sup> not for my own pleasure but because quite erroneous methods seem to be taught in the United States and it might be a convenience for those who wish for anything better to have a short discussion printed. I should guess that by sheer muddle and confusion on the part of people upon whom Gertrude has relied a good deal of ill feeling had been produced and controversial discussion exacerbated.

You might like also to see a letter and reply recently received from Berkson about which I also had to write to the editor of Biometrika.

Sincerely yours,

Copies of  
5 letters

[\* CP 256] JWB

COPY

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Department of Genetics

1st February, 1954.

Dear Professor Cox,

I have received a rather formal letter from the editors office signed by your name and complaining somewhat of the paper which I have revised at your request <sup>last August,</sup> and, as I thought, to your satisfaction.

If you find difficulty in publishing it after the trouble which has been given to it I should like to withdraw it from publication in Biometrics.

In my opinion the policy adopted by Biometrics of extensive refereeing and inviting persons whose work has not received sufficient commendation to enter into controversy and air their grievances is one that stands fatally in the way of the journal becoming one to which serious contributions can be sent, <sup>the delay alone is tedious.</sup>

I may say also that it has already given the impression of unequal treatment between nationalities quite inconsistent with its acceptability as an international journal; probably this is because the "lunatic fringe" seems to run wilder and be taken more seriously in the United States than it is elsewhere.

The offer about a year ago of my paper will have served some useful purpose if it brings home to the management the incompetence of this policy.

Sincerely yours,

signed R.A. Fisher.