

8th August, 1956.

My dear Besse,

I have delayed answering your letter for a very long while because I hoped to be able to send a copy of my new book, and what with the causes of delay familiar to authors, such as, in this case, ^{binding} ~~finding~~ staff going on holiday, the delays have been quite considerable.

I am sending the book by air separately from this letter, but I hope it may arrive at least soon afterwards, if not before.

The key to the book lies in the three quotations which precede the contents, whereas in the 'Design of Experiments' the quotations were printed between the contents and the text. It interested me greatly to notice how three very shrewd minds in the past had anticipated some of the main points which the book is intended to exhibit. In particular I have been trying to ^{detach} ~~attach~~ the manner in which we learn from observational data, with emphasis on psychological self-instruction, from the routine processes to which observational material may usefully be put once all the necessary thinking about them has been completed.

I believe that quite excessive emphasis on the latter has characterized American statistical writing in the last few years.

I hope you will be amused at least by my various hair-splittings.

I have not answered your question about Australopithecus. The sketch was published in an English archaeological journal, Antiquity, I think in the spring number, for it is a quarterly. The editor was good enough to send me a number of offprints of this, I think, rather charming picture.

Sincerely yours,

I am just back from the first Int Cong of Human Genetics in Copenhagen. It was delightful to see how the blood groups are transforming this subject - even Cavalli was there but I do not know if you knew any of the others.