

2173 Cummington Road
Cleveland, Ohio
January 15, 1930

Dr R. A. Fisher
Rothamsted Experimental Station
Harpenden, Herts

Dear Dr Fisher,

How soon do you expect to have your new book out? I am quite intrigued by the outlined content of its first chapter. Will the rest of the book deal with the purely bio-statistical matters in line with your earlier works in Mendelian theory, or will it be a study in genesis and development of Darwin's and Mendel's own ideas? I like to speculate that it will do both.

You did not attempt to prepare the readers for reception of this work. I looked through many a periodical accessible here and could not find any direct reference to this new undertaking. Instead, I found the Nature's correspondence which ensued the review of the Statistical Methods for Research Workers and the queer uncalled-for note of K. Pearson. I begin to dislike certain ways of this venerable gentleman.

Using my best judgment I am sending you the abridged sketch of the per-capita essay. I would really like to know what you think about it. Is it worth while? Please, tell it frankly, with or without reasons why. A critical word from you means more to me than the credits and recognition I get here. You know, indeed,

there are times when magnanimous encouragement and partial indulgence is more cruel in the long run than a downright sharp criticism made by a worthy man. Our correspondence is and will remain a purely private affair, and, therefore, no social responsibilities are to be attached to it. As to me, I think it is not too late to change my trend of study.

It is somewhat embarrassing to force upon you the matter of appraising the work of a stranger beyond the seas. There is no justification for doing it, except in the half-forgotten ideals of the relation between the real men of science and the younger students. But even this justification can hardly cover ^{the length of} twenty-five pages of abstract discussion in methodology.

Keep the paper as long as you feel like, - I shall not have any time to work on it during next month. And then, perhaps, it will be left alone.

In two weeks or so I shall have printed my first somewhat clumsy work in psychological statistics written as a term paper in my junior year in college. It was sent away by the head of the department and... eventually I may be sorry for letting it appear in print. But up to then,

Sincerely yours,

Mary F. Blatey