

6 November 1934.

M.M.Frechet,  
2, Oostduinlaan,  
La Haye.  
Holland,

Dear M.Frechet,

Thank you for your letter of November 2nd.

My impression had been, like that of Professor Gini, that the Assembly did not adopt the proposition of our Committee. I do also feel with him the difficulties which the Committee would experience in undertaking the task proposed, which, nevertheless, might well be undertaken by an individual, such as yourself, on his own responsibility, and if so undertaken would, I am sure, be read widely and with great interest. As you say, what is difficult is not necessarily impossible, and it would be of service to many who imagine that the quadratic analysis of measurements or frequencies is bound up with <sup>the</sup> correlation technique of my distinguished predecessor to show that the methods developed by Gauss and the early exponents of the theory of errors are more widely applicable and more appropriate in the majority of cases. I may say that I have myself suffered from this illusion in a recent bibliography in which some work with which I was associated, and in which no correlation was used or mentioned is described as follows: -

"The method used, following Fisher, is that of multiple correlation of yield on constants representing the distribution of rainfall". ( Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Supplement. Industrial and Agricultural Research Section. Vol.I. page 98 ).

Yours sincerely,