

27th. June 1947.

My dear Jackson,

For the variance of the smoothed value I would take coefficients  $3^2$ ,  $12^2$ ,  $17^2$ , etc., so that if  $V_1, V_2, \dots, V_5$  were all equal, the variance of the smoothed part would be

$\frac{595}{1225}$ , which is  $\frac{17}{35}$  times as great. This, however, implies that

*The successive death rates*  
 $V_1, V_2, \dots$  are independent, and not mutually correlated.

You may recall in my letter about population estimates similarly treated that the

precision of the smoothed value was greater than

this by reason of the negative correlation between successive estimates. I forget now whether your death rate estimates are likely to be independent or not.

I do not see that any fee is due from you, especially as you are paying one to Wigglesworth's department.

Good luck.

Yours sincerely,