

St John's College  
Cambridge

May 9. (1937)

Dear Fisher,

A question has just arisen about the excess return of the route of Vannos. It is 3.5 times the standard error, the probability of a random deviation exceeding which is 0.00041. Edworthy says that as it is one of 15 it can be accepted as normal. The p. that one of 15 would exceed 3.5 $\sigma$  is 0.006. What I should like to know from you is whether there is another case or record where a statistician has accepted as right a deviation beyond your 1/3 limit as

random? (The other 14 give a  $\chi^2$   
of 17).

By my test the thing is probably  
random on account of the huge  
number of observations combined, but  
there's not much to spare, & the  
situation could be altered if some  
specific systematic error was before  
the House.

I should be grateful if you would  
send me some of your papers. I'm not  
much interested in agriculture but  
I should particularly like the one  
where you got the distribution of  $\chi^2$

- (2) do we show you introduced =  
(3) one that incident mentioned to me the  
other day about  $\chi$  being distributed  
nearly normally.

yours sincerely

Herold Jefferys