

Lawes Agricultural Trust.

Director:
SIR JOHN RUSSELL, D.Sc., F.R.S.

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Dec: 22 ————— 1925.

Dear Mr. Cardadog Jones,

I have read your paper with very great interest and particularly admire your heroic attempt to obtain comparable data from our official publications.

With respect to the correlations the close connection between different census years is I think intelligible if one considers that the intercensal period is comparatively short compared with individual working life, so that one is in fact sampling not very different populations, in addition, of course the comparatively permanent localisation of industries, and the fact that they continually recruit employees on the same qualifications might extend the correlation over a longer interval. These points do not explain why 1901 and 1921 should be more alike than the intervening census and I can only suggest, what you have already noted, that in both these years discharged soldiers were numerous.

The correlations between institutions are exceptionally interesting since these in certain cases supplement each other, which would tend to reduce the correlation. Evidently the poor law is the connecting link between the prisons and asylums, and it would be interesting to know if these were at all correlated after pauperism had been eliminated.

To my mind your results strongly confirm the conclusions to which my friend Mr. Lidbetter has been led in studying the pauper population in an East End Union. He finds a quite extraordinary prevalence of imprisonment as well as insanity amongst the relatives of his paupers. I think it is difficult to explain this association either on the supposition that the same genetic factors cause the three types of failure, or that the same types of environment conduce to all three. It seems more probable that genetic causes of failure of all kinds have become concentrated by selective marriage in certain stocks during a number of generations.

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Once the association is established we should expect to find it showing up both in his data and in yours

Yours sincerely,