

12 March 1943

Dear Mother,

I do not think there can be the least hurry about the Higher Certificate examiners~~hip~~, who in any case would not function until about June 1944. I had taken for granted, as you do, that the paper on Elementary Statistical Method would not be obligatory for most people taking scientific or mathematical subjects in the Certificate. I assume also, on the analogy of the Civil Service examination which I did look into when I was asked to examine a few years ago, that candidates have to be crammed with hopelessly erroneous trash in order to satisfy the examiners.

On the otherhand the Higher Certificate docs seem to ~~be~~ one of the important examinations of the country, and for the University to appoint as its representative a biologist primarily, to take care of Elementary Statistical Method, should begin to have a salutary educative effect on schoolmasters. There seem to have been a good many cases during this war of people with some knowledge of Statistics gained in Biology now put in charge of important statistical work, so that under stress it would seem that education was not hopeless.

Probably Ford could tell you what the job is like, as I think he has examined in Zoology for many years. Of course, my point

In proposing to put your name forward was quite consciously subversive. I should like to impose as a necessary condition for being accredited as competent in business statistics the ability to test the significance of a 2x2 table. After all, when business men can do that, it may spread anywhere -- into the Insurance Offices, or even into the higher ranks of the Civil Service.

As to the 16th, I take it our arrangement stands that I should look for you at the barrier at Charing Cross for a train to Brixley at 10.33.

Yours sincerely,