

Interview with the Provost, 20/10/37

The Provost feels a difficulty about accepting the application of Dr Lacroix to work in the Galton Laboratory, on the ground that Lacroix has applied with a view to studying Statistics in relation to Economics, in view of the existence of the Statistical Department in the College. I explained that every one of the voluntary workers in the Department had come with a view to studying statistics, instancing in particular Professor Craig, who has for many years been responsible for the teaching of statistics at Ann Arbor, Michigan. The Provost thought that his principle could not be applied to senior persons, but that Dr Lacroix was in a more junior category. I assured him that no general course appropriate for a degree in statistics was given in the Department, but insisted that Eugenics, as had been recognised from its inception, required advanced statistical study, and that all students in the Department must be given full opportunities of mastering statistical methods; that Lacroix, in particular, wished to study Koopmans' book: LINEAR REGRESSION ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC TIME SERIES, in which the author avowed, as his main object, the purpose of applying methods developed by ~~meto~~ economic problems. His best chance of mastering this book appeared to be to study it under my supervision. The Provost finally decided to see Professor Pearson and ascertain if any objection was raised on behalf of the Statistical Department.

October 20, 1937

Dear Provost,

I am sending herewith Koopmans' book, Linear regression analysis of economic time series. It is, perhaps, fortunate that he does not mention the word "statistics" in his title, though, as you will see, the contents can properly be called statistical. The short foreword following the preface gives the author's intentions.

Yours sincerely,