

July 7, 1939

Dear Dr Philpotts,

I have your letter of July 5th, respecting the proposal to bring out the collected scientific papers of W.S.Gosset. As to the merits of this project I will express no opinion, since none has been asked; that the book should be issued as a Biometrika publication with E.S.Pearson as editor does, however, give me some concern, since his interest in your brother's work is subsidiary to his main concern of maintaining against inevitable criticism his late father's reputation.

You may have noticed that in the obituary on your brother in Biometrika a very impudent attempt is made to ascribe to him the origin of the procedure which I introduced under the name of the 'analysis of variance'. Pearson's former colleague, Neyman, has also endeavoured in lectures in the U.S. to represent your brother and me as in disagreement, whereas, though we may have occasionally formed and expressed different opinions, I believe we were both constantly confident that ten minutes discussion between us would reveal the source of the misunderstanding.

Two of Gosset's papers were published in Metron interlocked with two of mine written for this purpose, the offprints being bound together. As I have heard nothing of a proposal to reprint this series, I suppose it was the Editor's intention to publish separately the two portions published as 'Student's'. This paper, I remember, was delayed more than six months because your brother first offered it to Pearson for Biometrika, who, after long delay, capriciously refused it, publishing in the meanwhile under his own name a proof of one of our results. We did not raise the point, since I found that Romanovsky had given the same result independently a month or two before Pearson's publication.

In the circumstances it is doubtful what I ought to do. If you and others of the family are convinced that such a volume would enhance your brother's reputation, I shall not do anything to stand in its way. But I think I ought to have some assurance that the history of the development of the subject, on points on which we were in constant correspondence, shall not be further misrepresented.

Yours sincerely,