

22nd April, 1954.

Dear Mr Savage,

Thank you for sending me the literature on the subject of nonparametric statistics and related topics. I do not myself attach so great an importance <sup>to</sup> between the distinction of parametric and nonparametric tests of significance, as perhaps you do yourself, and I find myself a good deal puzzled by the history of the subject as set out in your earlier section.

I have just been looking through, for another purpose, a bibliography of Pitman's work going back to 1937, and developing systematically nonparametric tests of significance and not merely analysis of variance as stated on your page 847. This work avowedly stems from an example in "The Design of Experiments" dated 1935 so that your statement that the 'true beginning of the subject may be taken as 1936', <sup>referring</sup> relating to Hotelling and Pabst's paper on rank correlation, reads curiously to non-american readers. In respect to the form of the references, it is unsatisfactory to have, as on page 847, a reference to the exact test for 2 x 2 tables ascribed to the date 1948, presumably because that was the date of the later edition of "Statistical Methods" in your hands at the time. I have not traced it to its first appearance, but

it was certainly in the sixth edition of 1936. The statement that papers by Pearson (1947) and Barnard (1947a and b) constitute a survey of the field is bibliographically very misleading, since Barnard's first paper was an original contribution putting forward an entirely new point of view accepted and illustrated in the following paper by Pearson, but totally disavowed on later reflection by Barnard. I do not think any of these three papers were intended as a survey of the field, and I do not know that either author now feels that the methods discussed are at all justifiable.

Sincerely yours,