

3 May 1945

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My dear Gerard,

I've delayed answering your letter till now in view of your visit to Scotland. I do not think the variance of your estimate of total length of mycelium per gram of soil should encounter any insuperable difficulty. I imagine the lengths will be measured and the pieces counted in each of a series of sample fields, and that the variance of mean length for these, combined with some sort of weighting factor based on the number of starch grains in the field, ought to put the precision on a very firm basis.

As you know, however, I always feel a lot surer after trying out one or more hopeful methods on an actual batch of data. Perhaps if you make me a visit you could bring some along, or send a bit in advance for discussion at the time.

Yours sincerely,