

23rd March, 1955.

My dear Wishart,

Thank you for your letter, and for sending me your memorandum on statistics in Cambridge. The whole problem is exceedingly difficult, largely owing to a well-entrenched group in many of the biological and perhaps other departments inclined not to help, but to hinder the development-of such a centre or department.

So far as men of research standing are concerned, I am quite sure that the Statistical Department in Cambridge, whatever its nominal status, should not primarily provide statistical advice and computing service, but should be principally concerned in teaching young men capable of acquiring our techniques, and an understanding of their principles, ^{in preparation for} ~~prior to~~ applying them in their own researches.

In fact, I think the principle advantage of offering such a statistical advice and computing service would be in keeping statistical lecturers in the Department of Mathematics in touch with research problems, but I fear they would often feel they had more to teach than to learn!

Sincerely yours,