

12 October 1944

Dear Dr Discombe,

I am returning your typescript with many thanks. My only suggested amendment is a little egotistic, because, though Pearson introduced the  $\chi^2$  distribution, or rather Elderton's table of it, in 1900, the index of dispersion for the Poisson series, and the fact that on investigation it was found to have an equivalent distribution was my work. (1922, Fisher, Mackenzie & Thornton, The accuracy of the plating method of estimating the density of bacterial populations. *Annals of Applied Biology*, ix. 325-359)

I am glad you have dug out Abbe's early work. It is quite amazing that in another case, Helmert (1875), a first-class advance in mathematical statistics in Germany led to nothing and had all to be rediscovered in this century in England. Modern German mathematical statistics is singularly null and void.

Yours sincerely,