

19th January, 1959.

My dear Prasanta,

I have been following up some very curious slow changes in the date of winter rainfall observed by Cornish at Adelaide, and have just been delighted to find that Cape Town (roughly on the same latitude but 120° away in longitude) has been doing almost the same thing. It may indeed be a phenomenon affecting only the southern hemisphere, but I recall Gilbert Walker's work on the monsoons and the use he made of, I think, mean barometric pressure at Valparaiso in his prediction formula. Hence what is turning up around the southern continent may not be irrelevant to the Indian monsoon.

I believe the onset is rather sharp, and it has occurred to me that perhaps records have already been compiled giving the day of each year on which the monsoon breaks in Calcutta, for example, or in Poona. Some such easy convention as the first day with more than one-tenth of an inch of rain would give a definite date. If it is available at once I could get such a series treated comparably with the others before coming to India. Alternatively I could work them up while in Calcutta.

There may not be anything in it, but it would take rather little trouble to find out if, as I guess, good records are available perhaps for 80 or 100 years or more.

Sincerely yours,