

25th February, 1958.

My dear Kenneth,

I expect you will have had time by now to read the review which Darlington obtained from a man called Lindley in the Statistical Department here, and perhaps you have satisfied yourself that his claim that a mathematical error is to be detected in Section 6 of Chapter V arises from his ignoring what that section is about. Its opening words explain that the problem is to combine data of two different kinds, and his alleged counter-proof concerns itself merely with the old problem of the combination of observations of the same kind.

He seems not to recognize that my example is essentially that of Bayes, the exposition of which has been fossilized and stereotyped by repetition over 200 years to such an extent that the fact that Bayes obtained his probability a priori by an experimental trial, has very widely escaped attention.

I thought it rather stupid of Cyril to let the young man air his mathematical criticisms in a genetical journal when a more appropriate medium can well be imagined.

Yates has sent me a copy of his letter, which I find to be principally a protest against scientific methods being judged by mathematicians without scientific training or experience. Of course, I agree with it, but it does not clearly show where

Lindley went off the rails, or prevent mathematical readers from being misled by Lindley's review.

Perhaps you have considered the problem from the point of view of the reputation of Heredity.

Sincerely yours,