

25th. February, 1939.

Dear Mr Mayo,

It is good of you to think of congratulating me, and of reminding me of old times. I wonder if you know that I failed egregiously in two occupations before finding my feet in Research? It was always a great support to me to remember that you had thought I was fit to do good original work, and a special satisfaction to make some progress in justifying your opinion.

It is great luck to be recognised by mathematicians, because academically speaking statistics has scarcely been discovered yet; though the demand for it for research is becoming a little felt. I wish I knew what sort of academic organisation would suit the subject, for it would be deadly to it to be isolated as a self-contained study. I mean, to create Chaires and Readerships to train statisticians to occupy Chaires and Readerships. What we need is a fairly intensive mathematical training, together with very wide scientific interests, not so much in established knowledge as in the means of establishing it.

Yours very gratefully,