



54 Braid Road,
Edinburgh 10.
May 13, 1939.

R. A. Fisher, F. R. S.,
Milton Lodge,
Harpenden, Herts.

Dear Fisher,

The University of London has sent to me 10 papers of P. V. Sukhatme, Ph. D. , which he has submitted for the degree of D. Sc. of London. I have read these once through, and am beginning a second reading. This letter is to give you my first impressions, which are in the main favourable. Some of the papers I had read before, especially those on combinatory analysis of bipartitional functions. A few of the papers are light-weights, but five of them seem to be quite good.

I take it that I am to send on the papers and enclosures to you. Most of the report is of a formal nature, but there is a section in which a statement of the grounds of decision is to be set out in several lines. Shall I perhaps append my signature in readiness on the form when I send it to you, enclosing separately a draft of my own grounds of decision, which you can modify as you may see necessary to do ?

Of course your standard of D.Sc. in London may be higher than I imagine ; but here in Edinburgh I think Sukhatme's work would be regarded as worthy.

Yours sincerely,

A. C. Aitken

May 16, 1939

Dear Aitken,

My letter evidently crossed yours. I have my own copies of Sukhatme's papers, but I think there is only one form of report, which is the one in your hands. I think your suggestion for dealing with with that will be entirely convenient.

I wish I could think that there was anything that could be called a standard for the London D.Sc. The fact that I have seen absurdly bad theses successful is, of course, no excuse for approving of any more second-rate work, but in many ways Sukhatme's is certainly first-rate, and I am very glad that you are inclined to think well of it.

Yours sincerely,