

August 13, 1941

My dear Aitken,

I am writing to ask if you will join with me in supporting the name of P.C.Mahalanobis for the Royal Society. If you ever see his journal, Sankhyā, the Indian journal of mathematical statistics, the best of which comes from his Laboratory, you will appreciate how much he has done to raise statistical standards in India.

Yours sincerely,

Rentonhall House,

Morham,

East Lothian.

August 16, 1941.

My dear Fisher,

I would cordially support you in putting forward the name of Professor P. C. Mahalanobis for the Royal Society. He has kindly sent me numbers of *Bankhyā* since its foundation some years ago. In particular the work of S.S. Bose and S.N. Roy, working at his suggestion and under him, has been of very high standard ; and his own concepts and his own work on "distance apart" (in a statistical sense, but very like the corresponding concept in modern function theory) between multi-variate populations or species, have always seemed to me most valuable and attractive.

I am much better, but in the latter part of July I had a very bad time. Insomnia produces an oscillating confrontation of the subconscious and the conscious, in which very strange things occur. As a by-product I got several pieces of original music. But it is much better to enjoy normal sleep.

Yours sincerely,

A. C. Aitken

August 20, 1941

My dear Aitken,

I am so glad to hear that you are better. I find that the subconscious in emotional respects comes into view during fairly concentrated computation.

Many thanks for supporting Mahalanobis. His certificate will be sent you in due course, i.e., probably a few months.

Yours sincerely,