

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOLOGY

GALVESTON, TEXAS Sept. 3, 1937.

Professor R. A. Fisher,
University of London,
London, England

Dear Professor Fisher,

Following the suggestion that you gave me at Colorado Springs I have calculated the departures from normality of distribution of 28 small sets of variates in the "cat titration" method for standardization of cardiac glycosidal preparations. Table 3 enclosed shows the results, also those for the logs of the variates. Table 4 is not perhaps a useful compilation. De Lind van Wijngaarden worked in Utrecht, indirectly for the League of Nations. We got his detailed results from a book, "De Betrouwbaarheid van physiologische IJkingen uitgewerkt voor Digitalis", Schotanus and Jens, Utrecht, 1925.

I spent an enjoyable six weeks at Iowa State College this summer in Snedecor's laboratory, and had there my first formal instruction in statistics. Hope it sticks. It was a great pleasure to associate with Snedecor, Brandt and Norton. I am glad that Norton is to have the opportunity with you. I am sorry that I did not know till too late that you were there last summer.

In connection with public health instruction here I am to give an optional course in statistical methods. I feel considerable misgivings about myself in that capacity, naturally, but as Diaz said about the regiment of the Mexican Army that he first served in, "Nada es peor" or something along that line, meaning "better something than nothing". At least I hope so. After 17 years of trying to "underconstumble" what clinical and laboratory investigators along the medical line are trying to say they think they have proved, I feel that confusion could hardly be worse confounded than at present. At any rate I have a limited objective, to demonstrate some simple applications of tests of significance. To satisfy my own curiosity I have been reviewing calculus, which seems to be indicated as a medicament for the alleged cerebrum. Possibly I should read up differential equations very specially, but I do not know really enough about the theory of probability to know just what to read. Our math dept. is 250 miles away, at Austin.

Brandt told me that you have several children. If any of them are interested in American stamps I might be able to send some of interest that come in on our mail from time to time, and are saved for the ubiquitous stamp collector. Lately we have been having a lot of commemoratives, a resource of a fisc in difficulties. Some of these are quite interesting.

Thanking you for your kind assistance, and regretting my delay in acknowledging it, I am

Yours sincerely,

W. F. Dawson