

Enc. amended copy.

12th. February 1946.

Dear Mr. William Legg,

Thank you for your letter. I agree entirely that conformity to the traditions of the dictionary and calm impartiality of statement must be the aim, and I have no objection to what you have cut out.

I have further been through your draft and put in a few minor corrections, aimed either at clarification or at avoiding such infelicities as sometimes arise from phrases passing through more than one hand.

The great series on Contributions to the Theory of Evolution has, as I said, 26 separate members, although only 12 of these appeared in the Philosophical Transactions. Others appeared in the Proceedings and elsewhere, some being numbered and some not. I have during the last 35 years at various times had occasion to look at probably all of these and at the immense output which was published

in Biometrika. Pearson must have written a considerable fraction of the whole contents of this journal. I have probably left the impression that as technical contributions to the advancement of statistical methods, the avowed aim in most cases, all this ^{was} cuts rather little ice, and, without being dogmatic, I doubt if anyone who has given so much time and attention to it as I have could form any other conclusion. The admiration felt for him as a "giant of the Victorian age" must surely be due to the earlier writings on the philosophy of science, his attempt to develop a consistently rational materialism, to which I ^{had} given a good deal of space. I think it would be generally agreed that by far his most important positive contribution to statistical method, the subject on ~~which~~ he wrote most, does lie in the χ^2 test of goodness of fit, and that he was singularly unresponsive to and often antagonistic to contemporary advances made by others in this field. The fact that he really achieved, in the eyes of his own circle, his latent ambition of High-priesthood did make his antagonism often effective and deleterious,

But for this the work of Edgeworth and of Student, to name only two, would have borne fruit earlier.

I have certainly written without animus. Pearson once offered me the post of his chief assistant, which I was lucky in not accepting, as I could never ^{have} taken his work at his own valuation, but he certainly never did me any injury.

Yours sincerely,