

May 3, 1940

Dear Gini,

I am glad to hear of your progress with the papers you propose to publish. I imagine that these are expansions of papers given at the Edinburgh Congress.

So far, the war has produced no appreciable inconvenience in England, even to people like myself past military age and not regarded as qualified for any war activity. The excessive zeal with which our war preparations were put into practice last September was often a nuisance, but we are now beginning to settle down to the real business.

I usually try to warn the user of tests of significance who is new to the subject of some common misapprehensions by a series of introductory paragraphs, such as that on pp. 83 and 84 of Statistical Methods (7th edition) - also 120, 129, 130, 131, 134-5, 139-40, 193-4-5-6, and many other places. These are attempts to induce a general ^{understanding} ~~conception~~ of the tests, rather than ^{to} stigmatise particular abuses. The reason for this is that one does not want to display the notice "Beware of the Dog" after the dog is dead, and abuses and mistakes in statistical procedure have a ^{high} death rate, though this is unfortunately ^{balanced} by an equally high rate of reproduction.

Yours sincerely,