

February 18th, 1936

Dear Bradford Hill,

I am enclosing a questionnaire for a Punjab village enquiry, together with my comments on it. Balmukand, who was with me for a year at Rothamsted, has shown very great enterprise in getting the thing going, and I believe deserves all possible encouragement.

I judge from his letter that the enquiry is nearing completion, so that it is useless to suggest amendments or additions to the questionnaire, but he will certainly find considerable difficulties in making a critically sound job of the comparison of fertility with economic status for which the enquiry originated. Any helpful suggestion which you could make, or criticism of my own comments, is likely, therefore, to be very useful.

The families concerned are often highly compound, i.e., a group of relatives work co-operatively, having all in common, so that affluence must be gauged, not only by the total family income, or resources, but by the number of persons which it supports. For that reason

I attach much importance to the enumerators' judgment in assigning families to different levels of affluence, guided, as this will be, by local opinion which cannot appear objectively in the form. It appears, also, to be almost hopeless to deal directly with the fertility of women, though that of the men seems likely to be available. I cannot make up my mind to what extent adult mortality between 30 and 60 is likely to affect the proposal I have made for measuring average fertility.

Your sincerely,