

September 19, 1938

Dear Jeffreys.

Thanks for your letter. I agree very much with your point about the median. It has the great advantage of having always an intelligible meaning, whatever the form of the curve. In writing Gossett's obituary for the forthcoming volume of the Annals I was interested to find that one of the first applications he made of his distribution was to apply it to a sample of two, and thereby get out an inference respecting the median irrespective of the form of curve. In writing the obituary I took the opportunity of developing this idea somewhat further, i.e., to any percentile point and to the simultaneous distribution of different percentile points.

I like your letter to Nature, which I return, and think it can do nothing but good. You have forgotten to let me know what particular allusion of mine to Pearson you referred to formerly - some footnote or other which I suppose contains the overstatement mentioned in your last sentence. Of course it does not matter whether I think now that it is an overstatement or not.

Yours sincerely,