

November 24, 1938

Dear Jeffreys,

I think it is time something were done with respect to the Secretary and Editorial Committee of the C.P.S. Two and a half years ago I was forced to resign a long-standing Fellowship of the Society through the attitude of one, A.H. Wilson, whom I do not know apart from this correspondence.

The situation was that M.S. Bartlett thought he had detected an error in a paper of mine dealing with a test of significance originally put forward by W.U. Behrens. Bartlett's paper purporting to expose this error was published by the Society, without notification by him or them to me as the author criticised; ^{they} and thereby took the ordinary risk of receiving a reply. The Referee objected to my reply on the ground that I had chosen a degenerate case, although this case was not chosen by me, but by Bartlett, and reiterated a number of facts which I had demonstrated and emphasised in my note, as though I had overlooked them and as though they were opposed to my point of view. Nevertheless, Mr Wilson and his Committee decided to refuse publication of my answer in which I gave

my grounds for dissenting from Bartlett's conclusions. This course was, I think, particularly objectionable as I had been myself responsible for first putting forward the fiducial argument, and had, therefore, to continue to shoulder the responsibility of preventing its being misunderstood, as I think Bartlett had done.

The excuse was put forward that I had misrepresented Bartlett, but when Wilson was challenged to cite the particular passage which was thought to be a misrepresentation, with a view to my modifying it if it really seemed to be such, he failed to produce any case.

I do not know who is responsible for the management of the Philosophical Society, but think it must contain a sufficient number of reasonable men to conclude that this is not a reasonable or possible way to treat Fellows of the Society. I am enclosing the correspondence, in case it may be of service in getting the Society to conduct its business in a more tolerant way.

Many thanks for your kind congratulations.

Yours sincerely,