

St John's College
Cambridge.

August 7. 1938

Dear Fisher,

I have just seen Neyman's note on your remarks in the June Biometrika. As it happened it was just after I had got annoyed over his misrepresentation of the opening sentences of my Phil.Trans. paper in his review of the Grammar of Science, and I have consequently sent him a juicy letter about pleading for peace while doing everything in his power to make matters worse. I think that you made a mistake in inserting the footnote in question, but in the circumstances. I think an impartial observer would allow a deuce of a lot for provocation - and I know I have said some things in print myself that I rather wish I hadn't, and been saved some others by referees. What really tears it, in my opinion, is Neyman's quotation of your favourable remarks about K.P. in your Phil.Trans. paper, which were obviously designed to make the pill easy for K.P. to swallow, and then using them against you. So far I have been on friendly terms with E.S.P. and Neyman, even to the extent of communicating to the Phil.Trans. a paper by the latter, the basis of which I thought was rot, on the ground that it represented a widely adopted view and its consequences might as well be worked out; but the acknowledgment I get is that Neyman attacks me in a review of a book that I recommended for republication and E.S.P. rejects a paper for Biometrika on the grounds that my methods are used in it.

I am wondering whether you would care to depute to me the job of replying to Neyman. At the moment, just after the

republication of the Grammar, I would be in a good position
to look impartial ; though what I said would depend on how
Neyman replies to the letter I have sent him.

Yours sincerely,

Howard Jefferys.