

12 February 1944

Dear Mr Lyle,

I have been reading your book, both the parts on which you specially wanted my opinion and a great deal more, and I should like to congratulate you on the good job you have made of it. For my own part, I was most particularly pleased with the appendix of Finding Functions.

I hoped the figures will be incorporated in the text so that the reader may run into them spontaneously, and not always have to hunt them up at the end. However, you will probably have discussed this with Mr Grant.

As regards criticism, everyone, I think, has to judge for himself just how meticulous in statement he will be. I have always believed in Whitehead's dictum that "Applied mathematics is the art of knowing what to ignore, though, as mathematical

statisticians are sometimes malicious, this has lead me into a great deal of criticism. On page 21 your demonstration has led to the conclusion that $k^2 = 1$, and without more ado you say k must equal 1. There is of course another possibility, and it might be worthwhile bringing it to your reader's notice.

I think actually this is the only inaccuracy I have noticed.

Yours sincerely,