August 19, ml942

Dear Race,

I was glad to see your acholuric paper again, so don't talk about my excusing your bothering me.

You get a proper four-fold table when the same series of objects, cases, experiments, happenings, etc are classified di- *dichotomously* in two different ways, e.g., normal or abnormal and male and female, or experiment and control with dead and alive as the second category.

In your material, table III is a typical four-fold table, with normal and acholuric as one category with two classes, and sibs versus children as the other category.

The point of the exact treatment of the four-fold table is, of course, to get a more accurate value of the odds in borderline cases such as this, where the evidence is strongly suggestive, but not so strong as to be decisive. I should choose this table III for exact treatment, though it is a more tedious example than those in table IV.

On looking at table IV again, I doubt if it really supplies four-fold tables. The frequencies on the left seem to be those of married persons, and those on the right to be offspring, the total

of 10 male acholuric parents and four offspring, dead or miscarried, making marginal total 14 seems a bit mixed.   You could, however, classify these 10 fathers as having either some or none of their family recorded as dead or miscarried, and the same classification could be applied to the six normal fathers with whom you wish to compare them. The same with the mothers should give a good comparison.

For myself, I should prefer to give tables VIII and IX as typical four-fold tables, printed as in the example written below table VIII.   This will, of course, take quite as much space; but is, I think, easier to read, and the value of X^2 is not really difficult to verify, and may be mentioned in the text adjoining.

Yours sincerely,