

February 20, 1939

Dear Dr Rietz,

I wonder if you can tell me anything about a certain G.A.Baker, the author of a recent paper in Metron - vol 13, p.49 - in which he, evidently thinking that the result is new, gives the distribution of the ratio of two variances obtained from sampling the same population. I write to you as he seems to be acquainted with some of your work, and may perhaps have studied for a time at Iowa City. He evidently has no idea that the solution he gives was obtained, and actually demonstrated, from the same point of view as his own approach, at the International Mathematical Congress, 1924, at Toronto; that tables for the critical percentile points of the distribution appeared in the first edition (1925) of my book on Statistical Methods, and that the result has been used with quite remarkable frequency during the last 15 years for all the tests of significance based on the analysis of variance.

What I find puzzling is the contrast between the obvious intelligence and ability of the author, and his curious lack of familiarity with the current state of the

subject he is discussing.

So far as the Editor of Metron is concerned, I presume it is a case of a contribution in a foreign language being passed through unread; for some at least of the Italians are better aware than this example would ^{show} ~~show~~ of the tests of significance in common use.

Yours sincerely,