

April 19, 1937

Dear Schultz,

Many thanks for your letter and the offprint from the American Statistical Association's Journal. I quite agree with you as to the importance of what Gauss did, as I have often insisted on it. In fact, one of the most serious disservices of Karl Pearson to the advance of statistics came from his contemptuous attitude to the Gaussian tradition, as illustrated by his attack on the method of least squares, and his insisting on regarding correlation coefficients as more important than regressions, irrespective of the nature of the data.

I did try to make clear what was due to others when I substituted the historical note, now Section 5, for the previous section giving alternative sources for tables. Perhaps I ought to say that I do not personally agree with your remark that clearing up the  $\chi^2$  problem is the most useful thing I have done in statistical theory. The series of exact distributions on which the tests of significance are based was certainly more immediately fruitful, and I think the theory of estimation is certainly of more permanent value.

Yours sincerely,