

17th December 1934

Dear Dr Sheppard,

I would have to have Turing's paper back if I were to discuss his methods in any great detail. But probably I can do what you want without that. I have no hesitation at all in judging Turing's thesis the work of a first-class candidate. He seems to have thought out his own methods. Though if he has already worked under Kramer, he has probably learnt a good deal from him. He certainly has complete mastery of the methods used, though if his work were not so much a specific attempt at a solution, as the survey of the subject, as it tends to become in the appendices, one would like to have seen more of a comparison of the methods he has used with those using the characteristic function.

The sufficient conditions which it is his final aim to establish are, as he puts them, complicated in form and probably the author himself would like to go further into the problem of simplifying them as far as may be possible.

Finally in reading through his paper, I form a very

high opinion of his taste, virtuosity would not be too strong a term, in the art of framing conclusive mathematical demonstrations.

Yours sincerely,

To
The Provost,
King's College,
Cambridge.