Oct. 23 1915

[illegible] PLACE.
S.W.

Dear Fisher

Herewith my notes. I suppose all about fluctuations, or nearly all, will come out. In fact a good bit of the first 8 pages wont hold water. But that illustrates how your conclusions will simplify matters.

I have dealt with certain quasi-mathematical matters in this paper, and as it is the impressionist method, I am here especially likely to come to grief.

I do not like my suggested definitions on second thoughts. We want the ordinary words to be used for the ideas in most common use. Large mutations will, I believe, figure but little in the future, & I dont tho we must want 'mutation' only to mean a large change. How will the following do?

Modifications are differences between individuals which would not have existed if they had been exposed to the

similar environments.

Mutations are differences between parents and offspring which are due to changes in the {? Mendelian factors / germ plasm}, generally of a permanent nature.

Fluctuations are differences in the members of a sibship due to different arrangements in the Mendelian factors.

Variations comprise all differences between the individuals of the same species.

I must now state

you will agree that you are arguing with fluctuations! It is difficult to get these definitions to run neatly.

Yours sincerely

L. Darwin

Possibly enclosed from Yule will interest you. Kindly return. Do you see Pearson has republished by Cambridge Press that article in Biometrika — the one in question? He is a strange being. Whether correlation coefficients are ~~[illegible]~~ measures of the relative amount of attention to be paid to different questions is an important matter, about which statisticians seem extraordinarily uncertain!