
The Galton Laboratory,
Rothamsted Experimental Station,
Harpenden, Herts.

November 9, 1939

Dear Mr Lock,

I think I must have failed to answer your letter of October 31st. The material strikes me as being extremely interesting.

I would not myself rely on coefficients of variation, since the use of the mean as denominator when variances are being compared is extremely arbitrary, and in material where it can be tested objectively seems often to be a good deal wrong. You will see what I mean from the third section of the enclosed paper on the Comparison of Variability, which I hope you will keep, or return, as seems good to you.

It is very remarkable that some species should survive with only a few hundred individuals in each generation. It suggests, of course, that such colonies do not really survive long; i.e., that extinction is frequent among them and, therefore, that they must be rather frequently produced anew.. This is an aspect of such small groups which Wright seems entirely to overlook.

Yours sincerely,