

9th. December 1947.

Dear Eric Wood,

Thanks for your letter. For many years before the table was computed I had come to the conclusion that the only proper treatment of ranked data, looking at the matter from the point of view of estimation theory and on the assumption that the ranked series was based on a sample from a bivariate normal distribution, lay in using the mean deviate corresponding with each observed rank. The immense simplifications in the scoring of ties was an accidental byproduct. ^I They had studied the integrals obtained and in outline the appropriate method of numerical computing, having calculated some of the simpler values.

It was the stimulus of getting out a definitive table collection with Yates which led me to get the table completed, partly with the help of Stevens at the Galton Laboratory,

On the point you raise, do you not think the answer lies in the increased interval in mean deviate value which one gets at the end of the series, e.g. with thirty items the interval in the middle is about .08, where at the end it rises to .42. This, I fancy, may account for the greater ease of discrimination at the ends of the series.

Yours sincerely,