23rd April, 1957.

My dear David,

In reading your review of my book in *Discovery* I want you to know my reaction to your criticism of "unhappily phrased comments" on others which you seem to have found in it. This I take to be addressed particularly to me to read for my guidance; for I do not suppose you intended it merely to mar any pleasure I might have in reading your notice; or, that it was intended only to inform young students that the author is not merely aged, which is not altogether his fault, but also embittered and prejudiced so that no notice should be taken of any warnings he has tried to give.

Perhaps your feeling was that I was careless or inadvertant in saying, to take the only severe criticism I can recall, that K. Pearson showed himself to lack a sense of justice in his controversies; of course you have every right to consider and judge for yourself whether in those controversies he exhibited a sensitive sense of justice, or indeed any recognition of what others might regard as the duty of fairness. I was, indeed, not at all being
careless in pointing to this weakness in his work, as a very potent cause of the extent to which it was disregarded, and failed to arouse the cooperation of the general body of biologists. I should like you to try your hand at phrasing more happily the fact that most of his generation regarded him, and could base the judgement on quotations, as being an overbearing bully quite impossible to cooperate with. I do not see how a contemporary student could understand the history of the subject without recognizing this fact, from the consequences of which our subject is still suffering.

I should not like to think that you merely wished to tell the world that you stood shoulder to shoulder with Neyman in protesting against my "invective". If so perhaps you will compare, in respect of argumentative tone, Neyman's latest attack in the J.R.S.S. with the note by myself to which it was a reply. Which of us makes personal comments, with offensive intention?

I ask you to reread these two, although you can have little time for reading, and must have read my own book rather hurriedly, for I doubt if you gained anything new from it, and I had much hoped that you might.

Sincerely yours,

I hope you will send me a copy of your review.