February 15, 1937

Dear Mr Fyson,

I find on enquiry that we have no satisfactory data on ability and position in the family, Pearson's conclusions in his paper on the supposed inferiority of the first-born being really rather inconclusive. A few years ago a Mr Dufton published a rather amateurish enquiry which led him to claim that ability increased with the age of the father. I enclose a letter which I wrote to "Nature" at that time.

As to the hair sometimes visible on the second joint of the fingers, this is a thing of which not much is known. It has been claimed that it is determined by a simple Mendelian factor, and, if so, it would be of importance as adding one more to the easily observable markers attached to one of the 24 chromosome pairs in man. Such markers are really badly needed, and we are searching for them in the Galton Laboratory, in the reactions of the blood and in the characteristics of the hair.

I am enclosing the reference to Pearson's paper "On the handicapping of the first-born.

Yours sincerely,