May 18, 1937

Dear Gray,

It is not a question of my not liking the coefficient of variation, but of its failing to supply a basis for comparison of the kind wanted. I do not see that it does so either in the case of variation in stature in human populations, or, for example, between the sexes of the same population. I suppose for anthropometry what you would want to mean by saying that the men and women of a particular race showed equal or unequal variability would be that their relative variabilities, by any arbitrary method, were, or were not, what would be expected from a wide experience of other races, but, until one is sure what one means wants to mean, it is useless to define a measurable characteristic to represent it. I am not sure what one would want to compare in respect to the relative variability of different organs, but again I suppose a wide experience of other races would supply an appropriate basis for comparison.

Yours sincerely,