February 17th

Dear Fisher,

I am at present engaged in preparing a course of lectures in which I shall be dealing with your own contributions to the genetic theory of correlation. There is one point in your 1918 paper which worries me very much. When you speak of the contribution of hereditable and non hereditable causes to variance in a population, what exactly do you mean? I often use the same form of words myself and lately explicit I have been searching for a more explicit formulation of the problem. Suppose you say that 90 per cent of the observed variance is due to heredity, do you mean that the variance would only be reduced ten per cent, if the environment were uniform? Do you mean that the variance would be reduced by 90 per cent, if all genetic differences were eliminated? Perhaps you will think the question silly; but if you could suggest an alternative form of words, it might help.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]