Dear Sir Ronald,

Thank you very much for the letter in which you comment on our paper. I'm glad that you approve of what Watson and I have done. Keith is sending it to the R.P.S.

I am not, after all, coming to London for Blackett's symposium; the Treasury have reduced the universities' grant and my trip was one of the first economies. Keith is reading a paper for me. This will give the Australian results, and the comparison with the British and American data. There will be a short section on Watson's expansion of your statistics, and a few remarks about our paper, referring especially to the sampling problem.

If you decide (and I hope you will) to give a paper on the statistical aspects, I trust you will make what use you think fit of the developments that have been made here.

At the moment I am stationed, as one of a team of five, on the Transcontinental Railway in the middle of the Nullarbor Plain, where we are waiting with seismographs for the detonation of Sir William...
Penryn's bombs. It is a real nuisance that entails a seismograph to a geologist, and I anticipate some extraordinary results! There have been long delays through weather, and we are getting impatient and a little stale. Two conditions are required for safety reasons before the bombs are exploded. There must be a S.E. wind to carry the radioactive "dust" away from the populated regions of Australia, and there must be no cloud. The delays have been caused by the absence of one or the presence of the other. There has been a good deal of public reaction against these tests on account of the danger of infecting areas with radioactivity. The Monte Bello tests produced radioactive rain in Brisbane so there is some reason for this public resentment.

This area is aptly named; there is a bush so high as your head every mile and the rest is grass and patchy herbs. The plain is flooded by limestone, which is, in places, hollowed out into caverns partly water-filled or partly filled by air. Meteorological pressure variations cause pressure differences between the air in the caverns and the atmosphere, and these differences are relieved through
blowholes penetrating the surface. Through these the Earth respires. Above
ground the surface conforms to the geoid to an accuracy I have never
seen before, and never before have I felt so forcibly that the Earth is, in
fact, a sphere. The Nullarbor Plain has been abandoned by Nature to
birds and insects, lizards and mice, and submitted by Man to
the ravages of rabbits and the less dangerous attentions of a sparse population
of beef cattle. There is little surface water, and consequently few
carrying mosquitoes, so that unlike the Eothen, St. Kilda rabbits are still
abundant and healthy. It is said that a good trapper can make
£60 a week. Most of the rabbit meat goes to America, where, along
with Kangaroo tail too, it is regarded as a delicacy. There are very few
Kangaroos on the Plain, but there are a few Asiatic camels, remnants
of the caravans which once used to be used in the Australian deserts.

Thank you again for reading our paper.

Yours sincerely,

Ted Swings