14th April, 1958.

Dear Miss Kaye,

Thanks for your letter. I have been looking in this Department for biographical material and by far the best is one of which there are here no spare copies, but of which I can give you the reference, namely Sankhya (the Indian Journal of Statistics), volume 4, part 2, pages 265-272, a special number for the All-India Statistical Conference, Calcutta 1938. This is written perfectly in the spirit of an obituary notice, and has two photographs which I imagine can be re-photographed with permission for your purpose. The author, P. C. Mahalanobis, is the moving force behind the institute and the journal Sankhya. Mahalanobis's paper has also been published as a biography set at the beginning of Wiley's republication of a number of my papers, with the title "Contributions to Mathematical Statistics". I am enclosing for what it may be worth, an appreciation published in Discovery in 1944 which is tolerably good journalism and has utilized a certain amount from Mahalanobis's memoir. I am also sending a Lafayette photo showing a more advanced stage of decay, though I think a very good photograph.

In this century the history of statistics is having a severe set-back of a kind quite familiar with other new disciplines which have been parasitized and encroached on by formerly moribund subjects which they ought to replace. I mean that there is a quite considerable and obstinately recalcitrant tradition in
Mathematical Departments, centred about the word 'probability', which, with the movement that set in a few years ago to teach statistics in Mathematical Departments, has gone a long way towards corrupting the new discipline. The only hope, as I see it now, is to require any Department teaching statistics to have one or more persons with actual personal experience in one of the Natural Sciences. Otherwise they do not really know what the subject is about. I found a dead hand quite frightening in my recent few months last autumn and winter in the United States.

Sincerely yours,

Encs.