30th April, 1946.

Dear Dr. Smyly,

Of course, if the data gathered are able to determine any of the three conclusions you mention, it is most important that they should be tested and decided.

I am assuming that you have carried out ordinary tests of significance and that conclusion I is based on the absence of significant results. If so that is by itself no reason for saying that physical fitness tests in the field are unreliable, for the absence of significant results might equally well be due to the absence of physical effects, or to paucity in numbers of the group tested. Moreover, absence of physical effects might in turn be due to the group tested being of too advanced a stage of senility to show responses, of which less advanced cases might have been capable.

Similarly under 3, I should never conclude that the administration of vitamins has definitely no effect, but only that the test did not indicate any such effect.
Now if your are in doubt as to the propriety of the tests you have used, or of the interpretation, I think all that would be necessary would be making your choice of any suitable instance to tell one exactly what you have done and on what points doubt arises in your mind, I could then say whether I should or should not have adopted the same procedure in the circumstances.

Korenshevsky suggests that you should come down for a few days with a view to making the tests. If you find this possible, Miss Bowland here will be willing to look over the results with you, or such portions of them as you select, and if any doubt arises, I shall be available for further consultation. I am not going to criticize any results except where there seems to be enough doubt to justify a further opinion.

Yours sincerely,