June 6, 1941

Dear Fraser Roberts,

Thanks for your letter with the results of your exploration of surnames. It really is very encouraging, especially as I should expect the A's to contain a rather high proportion of very rare names. However, I may be wrong in this.

What you say about ages is also very encouraging. We have just worked a sample of about 11,000 here, and find the AB's slightly the youngest group in both sexes. This may be exceedingly important if due to differential death-rate. For data from a single place, however, which is all I have yet, other factors may make a disturbance, such as the recent population movements of the locality. It is, for example, possible that the Jewish population in Leeds is slightly younger on the average than the Gentile population. This would have a similar main effect, though it should also make the B's young, which they are not in my sample so far. If, however, the result is confirmed independently from the West Country data, the death-rate explanation will become very much more probable.

In case you would like to use the same age group, I am using 5-year groups centred at 13, 18, 23, etc nominal age; the actual mean group ages being, of course, half a year greater.

Yours sincerely,