Dear Fraser Roberts,

I am very glad to see your paper on the Bath population and shall be glad to print it in the Annals. As a preliminary paper it seems excellent, and I am particularly glad to have your full discussion of the process and difficulties of ascertainment. It is most necessary to set a high standard on this point, and your paper helps greatly to do so.

You ask me about the tables on fitting regression lines: the only point here which might be questioned is the treatment of the terminal classes, where you take actual instead of group means for the independent variate. I am rather curious to know the origin of this practice, if you happen to remember where you got it from. I suppose it arises from a sprinkling of children older than 12 years 10½ months and younger than 9 years 7½ months; but, using exact methods for testing significance, there is really no reason why these classes of few individuals should not stand by themselves. They might, indeed, be useful in table 7, where you have only four classes.

About tables 6 and 7, do you think that, owing to the nature of the test, two straight lines are really
better than a smoothed curve, or are they used for simplicity of working, as being good enough for the purpose? In the past the fitting of curved regression lines has seemed to be very heavy going, but I have recently worked out a procedure based on successive addition, similar to that used for simple series in Statistical Methods, which is really quite easy in the working. I shall put it in the next edition of Statistical Methods, but I can send you an example of a cubic fitted to some growth function, if you would like to see it.

I think the discrepancy you mention in table 9 must be due to arithmetical approximation as you say, and not to weighting.

No; I was very glad to see your discussion on pages 16 to 18; it can do nothing but good. I.Q. has become little more than a slogan, and nothing but good can be done if you get some more people to think in terms of the raw observations.

I do not know whether you yet have any considerable body of duplicate tests of the same children. I hope, at least, you will have later, for these would be most interesting to discuss in relation to your general preliminary results. Yours sincerely,