9th January 1935

Dear Fraser Roberts,

I read through the section of your address and think you have made very clear the point about using squares in analysing the variants.

I think it would be fair to criticise more severely the really gross error which Herrman and Hogben make in ignoring their errors of observation, not only making no attempt to measure them, but throwing the whole of these errors into their estimate of environmental effects. You have perhaps - but if not you should - compared Hogben’s treatment of this data when he is writing to a popular audience, with his more cautious attitude in the Proceedings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. The very close correlation for otis tests, was probably obtained for the material shewing the variability between different families and probably also for different ages. Naturally on correcting for age, the correlation falls greatly and on making the material genetically uniform, as with Identical twins, it must fall very much further. In fact it would not be surprising
if more than half of Hogben's supposedly environmental effects were nothing but experimental error.

Yours sincerely,

Dr J.A. Fraser Roberts,
Stoke Park Colony,
Stapleton,
Bristol.