16th November 1933.

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

Dear Fraser Roberts,

Thanks for the type script, for the Annals, which I expect will appear in the first number that I shall bring out.

I had a talk later with Lewis and Miss Darwin, and gave them some samples of researches being frustrated through insistence by experts on refinements and precautions, which in analogous work they had found important, but which were really wasteful of time, land or money, in the particular researches on which they were imposed. I hope that they at least will not give this sort of trouble again. Later however, I do hope you will take an opportunity of showing explicitly in your own data, how little any disturbance from inaccuracy from the group tests will really matter.

For example, a group of 30 children may have 80 or 90 brothers and sisters, of which perhaps 70 are available for mental testing. It is to be presumed that the average I.Q. of these will increase, as the true I.Q. of the probandus is increased. If you take a group aimed at 100% but really
scattered with a certain standard deviation about that value, it would be sufficient to retest let us say one lot of 30 to ascertain what their standard deviation is. One could then compare directly the variance in I.Q. of the brothers and sisters of persons selected on an inaccurate group test, with the variance from their expectations after allowing for any regression on the value of the individual test, and then you could say quite explicitly whether the average based on 70 siblings of children chosen in one way, was worth more or less than the average, say of 69 selected the other way. In fact whether extra time given hunting up more families or more members of families already identified, would or would not be more profitable than the same amount of time given to making individual tests of the original statement.

    I think such an explicit statement on the internal evidence if very patiently and carefully explained, and not pointed too directly at particular members of the Committee would settle at once this particular source of trouble.

    Yours sincerely,