9th May, 1958.

Dear Dr Sen,

[CP 37]

Thanks for your note. In the paper in question I do make some introductory remarks, chiefly devoted to guarding the reader against inferring that my correlations prove more than they do. This has not been altogether successful, for I believe some brash type at Rothamsted many years ago (perhaps it was Bill Cochran in one of his weaker moments) was saying that the results were all wrong for reasons which had been, I thought, quite adequately guarded against in this discussion.

Your interesting question about perennial crops is one that I have not specifically considered, though I think the considerations are rather similar. Perhaps there is greater probability of a hangover from the previous year's experience, since (e.g.) a hot summer in this country is favourable to the formation of the prototype of fruit buds, and so influences the crop in the following year.

In fact, before trying my hand at the Rothamsted wheat data, I had put in a lot of complicated work on some apple yield data on which Spencer Pickering, then in charge of this research, had consulted me. These data had a very strong internal oscillation
of the kind called 'biennial bearing', which is a phenomenon I am sure very worthy of study with perennial crops.

I am forwarding a fairly recent photograph under separate cover (by seafail).

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,