24 May 1933.

Dr. P. Stocks,
General Register Office,
Somerset House,
W.C. 2.

Dear Dr. Stocks:

As perhaps you already know I have been invited by the special board and by the authorities at University College, to succeed to the Galton Professorship of Eugenics. I did not happen to hear, until this had come up for discussion, that you had succeeded Stevenson at the General Register Office. I write to congratulate you and the Registry most heartily on this appointment, and look forward to seeing twinning added to the subjects on which the Registrar General's figures will throw light.

I have for long had in mind, and have, in fact, discussed with Mr. Vivian, the need for special research, on the data available at the centre, on the real bearing of the statistics available since 1911 on fertility and on its occupational differentiation. In these discussions it appeared that the office was not equipped in personnel, and was not expected to carry out research work of an academic type, and that, even
of the very important ancillary researches needed to test the validity of the comparisons made, and requiring, as you know, as much knowledge of statistical methods as any aspect of the subject, were seldom carried out with more than cursory care, or, when thoroughly carried out, were not regarded as suitable for appearance in a blue book. It appeared too that an adequately trained statistical assistant paid for by, and to that extent responsible to an academic authority would not be unwelcome in the capacity of voluntary worker attached to the General Register Office.

I was not, at that time, in a position to carry this scheme into effect, though it seemed to me a good one from every point of view, and not least in maintaining a live contact of thought between University research and official aims and methods. Your position at the General Register Office would seem, however, to offer a most favourable opportunity of trying out its possibilities and I should very much welcome your opinion, when you have had time to consider the matter, of how such an arrangement could be made most useful from both points of view. If it appeals to you we should, of course, meet and discuss the matter in much more detail.

Yours sincerely,