3rd December, 1958.

My dear Wilson,

Many thanks for your letter, which as usual gave me much pleasure. I am now doing little more than to acknowledge it and to wish you all happiness for Christmas.

My memory being bad, I forget a great deal that is relevant. Do you happen to recall someone who has taken out the mean age at death of persons dying of lung cancer and compared that in respect of smoking habits, finding, if I recall correctly, that the mean age is the same for non-smokers, light smokers, heavy smokers, cigarette smokers, cigar smokers, etc. It seemed to me a sensible thing to have done, though I for myself know very little of the snags of using data based, I suppose, on death certificates. You might perhaps know whether it was done on British or American records, for unless the Registrar General has made particular enquiries, I do not see how in England the smoking classes could be distinguished. Perhaps, however, they were based on some prospective enquiry such as Doll and Hill's register of medical men.

I have had some correspondence with Hill, who was much annoyed at the suggestion that his original data had been withheld or concealed. I have told him exactly the break-down required, giving page and table references to his 1950 paper, and pointing out that there could be no question of concealment if he could reveal these primary findings, of which only the marginal
totals appear in the paper.

So far, however, though indignant at the imputation of concealment, he continues not to reveal.

Sincerely yours,