

As I expect you know, up to well within the last 15 years writers on statistics were accustomed to be extremely careless in confusing that which is estimated with our estimate of it. The same terms and the same symbols were used for both without distinction. In 1921, in a paper of the *Phil. Trans.* [CP 18], aimed at clarifying some of the contradictions and paradoxes of the subject, I introduced two new terms, intended to be antithetical, namely, 'parameter', used to specify the parent population, and 'statistic', calculated from the observed sample. I was quite deliberate in choosing unlike words for these ideas which it was important to distinguish as clearly as possible. That work has now been largely done, so far as concerns the better writers on the