

PREFACE TO THE EIGHTH EDITION.

THAT a new edition should be called for within three years of the issue of the last is satisfactory evidence that the *Introduction to the Theory of Statistics*, which has now been before the public for over fifteen years, continues to hold its own amongst its now numerous competitors.

In the present edition an additional supplement has been included directing attention to the vagaries of observers in reading a scale, a curious subject on which a more extended note will shortly be published in the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*, and giving an example of the interesting frequency distributions presented by sizes of genera in any biological group. The lists of references have been brought up to date as usual and all new matter incorporated in the index.

A Czech copyright edition was agreed and the translation made by Dr. Vladimír Novák, Professor of Physics at the Czech Technical High School at Brno, and Dr. Jos. Mráz, Ministerial Councillor of the State Statistical Office and Docent of Statistics at the Czech Technical High School, Prague, and this appeared towards the close of last year, published by the State Statistical Office. That the State Statistical Office should have undertaken the publication of a work on pure theory shows a very noteworthy breadth of view as to the functions of such an Office: that the authorities should have selected the present work for translation was equally gratifying to the author and the publishers. The author expresses his personal indebtedness to Dr. Mráz, and thanks him for the care with which he read the text, and called attention to a number of minor points on which correction has been duly made.

G. U. Y.

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