A FIRST COURSE IN STATISTICS

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Preface

The title chosen for this book might have been 'Stage A Statistics', since, like Stage A Geometry, it is numerical, experimental and practical. It is designed not only to meet the requirements of students preparing for Statistics as an Ordinary Level subject of the G.C.E., but also to give a useful and interesting course of study to boys and girls in Technical Schools. It may also prove helpful to students in Teachers' Training Colleges and to students of Medicine, Dentistry, Agriculture, Economics or Engineering who require an elementary introduction to the subject before embarking upon a more mathematical treatment. It contains many examples and exercises, mainly taken from the past examination papers of the Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate, the London University G.C.E. and the Northern Universities' Joint Matriculation Board. The source of each is shown, and the author's thanks are due for permission to reproduce them. Use has also been made of data taken from *The Annual Abstract of Statistics* and *The Monthly Digest of Statistics* published by H.M. Stationary Office.

Five more difficult sections and exercises, marked with an asterisk, may be omitted on a first reading (42, 43, 57, 61, 62).

'A Second Course in Statistics', will follow. This will be an Advanced and Scholarship Level treatment of the subject. It will introduce probability, the binomial distribution, the normal distribution, significance and confidence limits. It will deal also with regression by the 'least squares line of best fit' and give a full treatment of the product-moment correlation coefficient and its significance.

A First Course in Statistics is dedicated to all those boys and girls who have worked under my guidance during the past twenty years. Their difficulties have shown me which points it is necessary to labour, and how far to take the subject.

R. L.

1 January 1958