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and children's shoes, and would not have enough of men's; and so on.

It is careless application of statistics, perfectly sound and good in themselves, to groups to which they should not be applied at all, that has led to the general skepticism of statistics in the minds of those who do not know the subject technically.

Statistics are indeed a form of concrete mathematics, a use of the abstract mathematics that we learn in school, on real units in the real world. Such concrete mathematics is very different from abstract mathematics, however. Abstract mathematics teaches us, for instance, that five times one is five; and in abstract mathematics this is of course true, for we assume that each such abstract unit is identical with each of the others. In real life this identity of units is never true, and hence concretely, five times one is notcan never be-five. Thus, look at your five fingers, on one hand. The five together are not five times any one. The five together are not equal to, say, five thumbs; or to five little fingers; or to five of any one other finger. Suppose we take five thumbs from five different hands, still the five thumbs would not equal five times any one thumb, for no two of the thumbs would be exactly alike.

In abstract mathematics, two and two always make four. Not so in real life; in concrete mathematics two and two never can make four; for since it is impossible to form even one group of one and one in which the units are so identically alike as to make the two together equal to twice either of the individuals, it is even more impossible to get two groups of two individuals each, which together will make a group of four equal to four of any one of the units.

When we say two sheep and two sheep equal four sheep, we really mean that each sheep, although different from every other sheep, has sufficient sheep-like qualities to make