

Prob/Stat day 2.9.17

Disraeli, Benjamin, Earl of Beaconsfield (1804–1881) quoted in 1895

This quotation has frequently been attributed to Disraeli. The earliest attribution of the phrase to him I have so far traced is in the following letter to *The Times* dated 27 July, 1895:—

SUNDAY OPENING IN THE CITY

_____ <> _____

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, Mr. Peake says that the figures quoted by me disguise plain facts.

I think Lord Beaconsfield said that there were three degrees of veracity—viz., lies, d—d lies, and statistics.

It may be so, but will Mr. Peake explain away the undoubted fact that the average attendance per hour at the Guildhall Gallery has been larger on Sundays than on weekdays, both this year and last year?

I am, sir, yours truly,

W. P. TREGOAR

Ludgate-hill, London, E.C., July 26

Very soon after that, on Wednesday 20 August 1895, the same attribution can be found in an Editorial in the *New York Times* which begins as follows:—

“OFFICIAL STATISTICS”

According to a saying credited to Lord Beaconsfield, there are three kinds of mendacity—lies, blank lies, and statistics. This means, doubtless, that nobody with a cause to maintain it ever lacked figures with which to do it. Even the anti-vaccinationists, for instance, by searching the inspiring tables of mortality in various countries, and especially by calling upon their own fervid imaginations, find no difficulty in proving that Jenner was a fiend in not too human form, and that a man vaccinated is for all practical purposes a man dead.

The attribution to Disraeli became more widely known because of the passage in *Mark Twain's Autobiography* quoted below under Twain, Mark.

Giffen, Sir Robert (1837–1910) in 1892

Sir Robert Giffen wrote as follows:—

An old jest runs to the effect that there are three kinds of comparison among liars. There are liars, there are outrageous liars, and there are scientific experts. This has lately been adapted to throw dirt upon statistics. There are three degrees of comparisons, it is said, in lying. There are lies, there are outrageous lies, and there are statistics. Statisticians can afford to laugh at and profit by jokes at their expense. There is so much knowledge which is unobtainable except by statistics, especially the knowledge of the condition and growth of communities and growth of communities in the mass, that, even if the blunders in using statistics were greater and more frequent than they are, the study would still be indispensable. But just because we can afford to laugh at such jests we should be ready to turn them to account, and it is not difficult to discover one of the principal occasions for the jest I have quoted, and profit by the lesson.

“On international statistical comparisons”, *Economic Journal* 2 (6) (1892), 209–238, first paragraph. In a footnote it is stated that the paper was read at a meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science at Hobart in January 1892.

Gould, Elgin Ralston Lovell (1860–1915) in 1892 and 1894

See under Courtney, Leonard Henry, under Dilke, Sir Charles Wentworth and under Marshall, Alfred.

Pence's Favorite Lies

40% of women sweat more than others.

Now with 20% more (than _____)

In a series tied 2-2, the winner of game 5 wins 79% (all sports but basketball example)

(In a series tied 0-0) The winner of game 1 wins 80% of the time

In a series tied 1-1, the winner of game 3, wins 77% of the time.

****Of the 7 games, which winner has the highest rate of series success?****

Student who...

Students who participate in sports, blah

Students who study music, blah

Students who ..., blah

Not really the same topic but I still want to say

Atkins diet – No ho-ho diet

Sleep more, work out more, sit and be the same less

Its activity that you require for nourishing, it seems like when you use energy you have less of it, but in actuality using energy makes you more capable of expending energy. Use energy, replenish, build a reservoir.

What can you really do when you work hard, when you persevere, when you won't accept no, when you break down the doors if no one will open them?

Success in math is about [1] questioning everything, [2] accepting some things, and [3] seeing the beauty in it. When you shortcut this process with a “git-r-dun” mindset, the first and third component are lacking. The second component can seem like a constant game of “there are all these math rules and some of them take priority over the others.”

Lastly a quote

Under capitalism, man exploits man. Under communism, it's just the opposite.

-John Kenneth Galbraith

Prepare a reaction/synthesis/idea to share about this quote. You have 2 minutes to think. 1 minute to share/listen and 1 to listen/share