

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTE FOR 1946

### NEW OPPORTUNITIES

The return to peacetime conditions presents the Institute with new opportunities for expanding its activities and usefulness. An increased appreciation for mathematical statistics has followed the many contributions made by our members to the war effort. The numerous societies interested in specific applications of statistics have come to look to the Institute both for leadership in theory and for playing its part in the dissemination of new results. As a result of the drastic interruption in the normal training of students during the war, there is unusually keen competition for the services of capable statisticians. Those of our members who are engaged in teaching are responsible for the execution of a vigorous training program to meet current and future demands promptly and without sacrifice of quality. In short, we are in a position, as never before, to advance the development and efficient use of mathematical statistics. The following account of some of our activities during the year will indicate, I believe, that the record is creditable. Yet in many instances what has been accomplished is only a beginning.

### MEETINGS

The Development Committee has repeatedly stressed the desirability of an extension in our customary schedule of meetings in order to provide additional contacts between mathematical statisticians and the users of statistics. Owing to the greater availability of railway and hotel accommodation in 1946, we obtained our first opportunity to put this extension into effect. The regular winter meeting with the American Statistical Association and other social science organizations was resumed at Cleveland in January, while the late summer meeting with the mathematicians took place at Cornell in September. In addition, two meetings were held with different sections of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at St. Louis in March and at Boston in December. On both occasions the programs were expository and attracted large audiences. Finally, at the invitation of Princeton University, a one-day meeting at Princeton in November was devoted to the analysis of variance. While no joint sessions were conducted with engineering or industrial societies, several of our members took prominent parts in the programs of such societies.

For the near future, it seems desirable to continue the practice of meeting in the winter with the ASA and social science groups and in the summer with the mathematical groups. In 1947 these meetings will be at Atlantic City, January 24-27 and at Yale, September 1-5 respectively. It is not known whether conditions in future years will produce a return to Christmas rather than January meetings: for the present the hotel situation swings the balance in favor of January.