

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTE

(For 1945)

I. DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC APPRECIATION FOR MATHEMATICAL STATISTICS

The aims of the Institute, as stated in the constitution, are to promote the interests of mathematical statistics. First and foremost, research must go on. The *Annals* must be published and its position maintained as the world's leading journal in mathematical statistics. Meetings must be held to provide for further dissemination and discussion of research. But this is not all. We should fall short of our opportunities for promoting the interests of mathematical statistics if we were to lose sight of the need for creating an environment in which mathematical statistics and statisticians can thrive and take their proper place for rendering the service that they are capable of rendering in the political, industrial, and scientific life of the nation.

A fair share of the efforts of the officers and committees of the Institute this past year has been devoted to the creation of this environment. The Institute has assumed leadership in several movements of importance in this direction and has lost no opportunity to cooperate with other organizations toward the same ends. Momentum has thus been given to important developments which are bound to affect the scientific advancement and employment opportunities of all people engaged in statistical work of any kind, whether it be mathematical research, consulting, teaching, major or minor roles in large-scale statistical projects, preparing questionnaires, designing experiments, analyzing results, formulating conclusions and recommendations, or taking part in any other way in the collection or use of statistical data. Briefly, these developments fall under three main headings.

(i) *Setting standards of professional competence.* The Description of the Profession of Statistics, put out by the National Roster this year, has gone a long way as a first step toward setting standards of professional competence. The officers and many members of the Institute assisted the Roster, particularly Professor Harold Hotelling and his Committee on the Teaching of Statistics, together with Dr. C. I. Bliss representing the American Statistical Association. Although the Roster Description is not intended to represent the official attitude of the Institute, it does represent cooperative effort toward cultivation of public understanding of statistical work.

(ii) *Raising the standards of teaching.* Standards of teaching go hand in hand with standards of professional competence. The Institute can proudly point to the accomplishments of its Committee on the Teaching of Statistics, which under the chairmanship of Professor Hotelling, has persistently set forth standards of teaching which are bound to bring about important changes in the arrangement of statistical courses and organization of statistical teaching. An inevitable result will be greater competence in statistical theory, better research, and expanding avenues for more effective application of theory.