

## PROGRESS REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT OF THE INSTITUTE

In considering the post-war development of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, the Committee has recognized two general problems:

- A. The problem of what additional activities the Institute should undertake in order to provide further stimulus to the development of the field of mathematical statistics.
- B. The problem of determining how the Institute can cooperate more effectively with the users of statistical techniques.

Because of rapidly increasing interest in the application of statistical methods in many different fields, the Committee has directed most of its attention thus far to Problem B; the present progress report is concerned with the work of the Committee on this problem. The Committee hopes to submit a report on Problem A at the end of 1945.

With respect to Problem B, it is the opinion of the Committee that a central organization for the statistical societies should be of common interest. Accordingly, a plan was worked out and submitted to the Board of Directors of the Institute at the Wellesley meeting of the Institute. This proposal and its present status are discussed below.

We believe that there is much to be gained from an organization that would form a link between the various statistical societies, and would have the following principal aims:

- (1) To represent the members of the societies in all matters of common interest.
- (2) To promote cooperation between statisticians working in the different fields of application, and between mathematical statistics, applied statistics, scientific research and the industries.
- (3) To develop amongst the public an appreciation of the value of the statistical method in scientific inquiry.

It is our opinion that an organization similar to that of the Institute of Physics would be suitable. The statistical societies, while retaining their present autonomies, would become founding members of a corporation whose governing board would contain representatives from each society. In pursuance of its aims as outlined above, the new organization might:

- (a) Take the lead in formulating policies on questions which concern all statisticians.
- (b) Publish a journal of general interest to statisticians and undertake the routine work in connection with the publication of the journals of the individual societies, the societies retaining in full their present responsibility for the contents of their journals.
- (c) Arrange joint meetings between different statistical societies and between statistical and other scientific societies.