

## REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTE FOR 1947

The healthy growth of the Institute has continued through 1947. The membership increased from 900 to 1046. This increase is gratifying as a sign that more and more people appreciate the usefulness of basic theory and are ready to support research by making our *Annals* possible. It is also pleasing to note that statistical theory and methodology are reaching new fields and that new groups as a whole are becoming conscious of the usefulness of contact with mathematical statistics. These developments are reflected in the meetings of the Institute.

*Meetings.* The Ninth and Tenth Annual meetings (for 1946 and 1947) were held in the traditional way in conjunction with the meetings of the American Statistical Association (January—Atlantic City and Christmas—New York). The Tenth Summer Meeting was held with the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America (September—Yale). Regional meetings were held in California (June—San Diego, December—Berkeley) and in Chicago (December), the latter in conjunction with the meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Moreover, two meetings were organized with specialized programs of interest to groups with whom the Institute has not previously had much contact. A meeting in April at Columbia University, co-sponsored by the American Mathematical Society, was devoted to *Stochastic Processes and Random Noise*, and another meeting held simultaneously at Atlantic City was in conjunction with the meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association. It is clear that with such diversified meetings the Program Committee could not always act as a unit. J. H. Curtiss was its Chairman and J. Neyman and J. W. Tukey arranged some of the programs. Other members of the Committee were: C. W. Churchman, T. Koopmans, F. C. Mosteller, J. Neyman, H. Scheffé, J. Wolfowitz, and H. Working.

At the Tenth Summer Meeting A. Wald delivered the first Henry L. Rietz Memorial Lecture. It is desirable to preserve the solemnity of the occasion of the Rietz lectures and it was therefore decided that they should not be given every year. Accordingly, no Rietz lecturer has been selected for 1948.

The Institute had no share in the program of the International Statistical Congress in Washington. However, Fellows of the Institute were invited to that Congress. This Congress and the Princeton Bi-Centennial were beneficial by establishing more intimate personal ties with our European colleagues. It is widely felt on both sides of the ocean that a closer cooperation, in particular with British statisticians, is highly desirable. Various suggestions in that direction were informally discussed in Washington and Princeton and M. G. Kendall has kindly consented to explore the practical possibilities. It is needless to say that the Institute is eager to do everything possible to promote cooperation and increase its usefulness also to our British colleagues.