

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.

Relations with other organizations. It is gratifying to note that the cooperation of the Institute with sister societies is growing in intensity. The last two Presidential reports mentioned plans for a reorganization of the American Statistical Association with a view to more intimate relations among statistical societies. The revision of the constitution of the Association is not yet completed. It appears now that also the American Mathematical Society feels the need of closer collaboration with all groups interested in applied mathematics. It is too early to predict the results of these movements but it is clear that we must devote careful thought to our own organization and to our future relations with other groups.

In 1947 the AAAS organized an Inter-Society Committee for the National Science Foundation Legislation. At the first meeting in Washington we were represented by J. H. Curtiss and W. A. Shewhart and at the meeting in December in Chicago by W. Bartky. In ballots on the two controversial subjects the Institute voted against exclusion of social sciences and abstained on the question of patent rights. W. Feller represented the Institute on the Policy Committee of the American Mathematical Society. Through this Committee the Institute went on record as favoring the National Science Foundation Bill. Otherwise the discussions of the Policy Committee were mostly connected with the establishment of an International Mathematical Union. Cletus O. Oakley represented the Institute on the Publicity Committee of the American Mathematical Society of which he is chairman. G. W. Snedecor was our representative on the AAAS Council, W. Bartky on the National Research Council, F. C. Mosteller and S. S. Wilks on the Joint Committee for the Development of Statistical Application in Engineering and Manufacturing. In recent years the common interests of the Institute and the *actuarial profession* have grown in importance and it has been suggested that closer cooperation would be beneficial to both parts. A new committee has been established to explore these possibilities and in particular to arrange a joint meeting during 1948. Members of this committee are: G. C. Campbell, T. N. E. Greville, C. Fisher, C. Spoerl, Chairman.

Internal Work. The growth of the Institute has rendered parts of the Constitution obsolete and a revision seems indicated. In particular, it appears that the present system of elections is no longer satisfactory. The Institute is deeply indebted to its Committee on Planning and Development which has devoted much thought and consideration not only to a revision of the Constitution but also to the future development of the Institute as a whole. The membership had occasion to discuss the preliminary plans at two business meetings. M. H. Hansen acted as Chairman of the Committee; other members were: J. H. Curtiss, W. G. Cochran, J. Neyman, H. W. Norton, F. F. Stephan, J. W. Tukey, W. A. Wallis.

A sharp increase in printing costs has, unfortunately, necessitated an increase in membership dues. However, the membership should rest assured that the financial position of the Institute is intrinsically sound. The cash prospects for 1948 are not rosy, but this is due principally to the necessity of reprinting

back-numbers of the *Annals* which in itself is a sign of health and promise of stability. At present the Institute has a considerable reserve in back numbers and this reserve is rapidly being transformed into cash. We are also exploring the possibilities of new revenue and have started a campaign to get advertisements for the *Annals*. A possible campaign for institutional members is held in abeyance pending a clarification of our formal relations with sister societies. In order to make the *Annals* available in European countries with monetary exchange restrictions, the dues and subscriptions have been increased only for the Western Hemisphere. The investments of the Institute have been supervised by the Finance Committee consisting of C. F. Roos, L. A. Knowler, F. F. Stephan, and Paul S. Dwyer, Chairman.

Last year's Committee on Teaching completed its work and submitted a detailed report which will be of great value. It will be published in the *Annals of Mathematical Statistics*. The Committee has been dissolved with special thanks of the Board of Directors for their successful work. H. Hotelling was chairman and its members were Walter Bartky, W. Edwards Deming, Milton Friedman, and Paul Hoel. The Committee on Tabulation under the chairmanship of C. Eisenhart and consisting of Paul S. Dwyer, H. Goldstine, A. Lowan, H. W. Norton, and G. R. Stibitz has outlined the work for the coming years which promises to be of great interest.

The Membership Committee consisted of C. C. Craig, P. G. Hoel, and J. H. Curtiss as Chairman. On its recommendations the following members were elected Fellows: T. W. Anderson, David Blackwell, Frederick Mosteller, Gerhard Tintner, Charles P. Winsor, Alexander Aitken, George Darmon, Ragnar Frisch, Robert C. Geary, and John Wishart. The Nominating Committee consisted of Meyer A. Girshick, Paul G. Hoel, Horace W. Norton, Frederick Mosteller, and George W. Snedecor, Chairman. A. Wald was nominated for President, and as an innovation four nominations for Vice-presidents were made: C. Eisenhart, A. M. Mood, Henry Scheffé, F. F. Stephan.

The *Annals of Mathematical Statistics* are covered by a special report of the Editor. However, it is appropriate to say that the Institute takes pride in the development of the *Annals*. While members see only its spectacular success, they should bear in mind that this is mostly due to the work of one man, S. S. Wilks. In view of the great variety of interests of our membership and the many desirable directions in which the *Annals* could develop, it is clear that the work of the Editor can not always be pleasing and naturally often means a nervous burden. I feel sure that I speak for all our members in expressing the Institute's sincere thanks to S. S. Wilks not only for his work but also for his wisdom in striking a sensible balance between many wishes and possibilities and leading the *Annals* so successfully in a direction satisfactory to all of us.

In thanking all other members who have contributed to the work of the Institute, it is hard to find appropriate words to express appreciation for the unselfish efforts and devotion of our Secretary-Treasurer. Few members will realize how much of Dwyer's time and thoughts are spent for the Institute

and how much the smooth running of the affairs of the Institute is due to his hard work.

Finally, it is a pleasant duty to express our thanks and appreciation to Princeton University and to the University of Michigan. These Institutions have generously provided office space and other help which has greatly facilitated our work and saved us expenses.

WILL FELLER,
President, 1947.

December 31, 1947.