

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.

In 1946 the membership of the program committee was enlarged so that it would be better equipped to arrange joint meetings with other societies. We owe our thanks to the members for their successful efforts in the face of difficulties which still attend the planning of a meeting.

ANNALS

Despite the scarcity of manuscripts in the later stages of the war, our editor, Professor S. S. Wilks, succeeded throughout in maintaining the annual volumes of the Annals at their usual size. During 1946, scarcity gave way to plenty. The number of papers of good quality submitted in recent months is sufficiently great that there will be more than enough, by current estimates, to fill the 1947 volume. To narrow the scope of the Annals or to reject good papers would be undesirable. Accordingly, the Directors have authorized an increase of 100 pages in the 1947 volume if this is necessary to insure the publication of all acceptable papers.

A gratifying testimony to the prominence of the Annals in its field is the marked increase in the demand for back numbers. Our Secretary-Treasurer reports that sales amounted to \$3,235. To meet actual or anticipated orders, eleven issues were reprinted during 1946 at a cost of \$2,809.

For most members of the Institute, even those who serve on the Board, work on Institute affairs occupies only a minor portion of our time. The editor is never free from some forthcoming publication deadline. Initial perusal of manuscripts, selection of referees, editorial decisions, handling of the production phases of publication and much miscellaneous correspondence (not all of it pleasant) make editorial work a daily preoccupation, year in and year out. An annual word of thanks is an inadequate expression of our indebtedness to Professor Wilks.

MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCE

At the beginning of 1945 there were 606 members. A year later this figure had increased to 777 and at the end of 1946 the figure stood at 900. A fifty per cent increase in two years is another evidence of the healthy growth of the Institute. It has been attained to a considerable extent through the hard work of our Secretary-Treasurer, P. S. Dwyer and the cooperation of individual members.

The Secretary-Treasurer also reports a very satisfactory net gain in assets of \$2,627 during the year. Nevertheless, financial problems may arise in the near future. Printing and other costs have risen sharply, and the printing of an enlarged Annals will be an additional drain on our resources. Both the Membership and Development Committees have given some thought to the need for additional revenue that may face us soon. They have recommended consideration of the possibility of Institutional Memberships, a device that has been found satisfactory by some other societies. A continued growth in membership will also help greatly to finance expanded activities.

COMMITTEES

Inter-society affairs: The report of the 1944 Committee on Development, stressing the need for closer cooperation amongst the various societies interested in statistics, provided the stimulus for active efforts in this direction. A meeting of representatives of these societies was called early in 1945 at the invitation of the American Statistical Association. This meeting suggested that a reconstitution of the ASA might enable it to become the central binding organization. Accordingly, a committee of the ASA has worked for a considerable time on a revision of the ASA constitution, which it is intended to submit to the votes of ASA members early in 1947. The new constitution provides for representation from other societies on the Council of the ASA, should these societies decide to associate or affiliate with the ASA.

From our own point of view, it has seemed wise to delay action on certain internal affairs while awaiting the outcome of these developments in the ASA. Thus a statement of policy with regard to the formation of chapters of the IMS is needed and the problem has been considered both by a special committee in 1945 and by the Development Committee in 1946. The latter committee recommends that no decision be made pending examination of the provisions for joint sponsorship of local and regional chapters in the new ASA constitution. Similarly, our own Committee on Revising the Constitution and By-Laws has deferred a final report until the attitude of our members towards the new developments can be expressed. It is to be hoped that decisions can be taken in 1947.

Tabulation: The advances made in recent years in the construction of new types of computing equipment justified an enlargement of our Committee on Tabulation, which now includes experts both on the building of machines and on the calculation and use of tables. The committee plans to keep our members informed of progress in this field.

Government Service: Dr. W. Edwards Deming served as chairman of a new committee on Mathematical Statistics and Statisticians in the Government Service. Although the federal government employs many mathematical statisticians, explicit recognition of the profession is lacking in many instances. As has happened in other fields, statisticians are sometimes officially classed as economists and little provision is made for mathematical statisticians in recruitment policies. Moreover, it is probable that a number of branches of the government, at present unaware of the functions of a statistician, could employ several with profit. The new committee will endeavor to insure that mathematical statistics is recognized and effectively utilized in the federal service.

Assistance to libraries: Like other professional societies, the Institute has received a number of appeals from libraries in war areas whose periodicals were looted or destroyed during the war. After careful consideration, the Board decided that official action should be limited to the free provision of missing copies of the Annals to all former subscribers who intend to renew subscriptions for the future. In addition, a committee with Professor J. Neyman as chairman

was appointed to establish a procedure by which gifts of individual members (books, reprints, back numbers of the Annals or cash for the purchase of back numbers) could be handled. At the suggestion of this committee a general appeal for the small sum of 50 cents per member was circulated with the December billing. Individual collections are also being made at certain centers.

Teaching: The Committee on Teaching has not made as much progress as it would have liked, owing to the dispersal of its members and the taking up of new civilian posts. Members have, however, cooperated with the Committee on Applied Mathematical Statistics of the National Research Council, which is engaged on a somewhat similar survey.

Rietz lecture: The first lecturer in the new series of lectures in honor of the late Henry Lewis Rietz will be Professor A. Wald. His topic will be "Sequential Estimation and Multi-Decisions". The lecture will be delivered in connection with the Yale meetings, September 1947.

Representatives: In addition to its committee work, the Institute cooperates, through representatives, with the Division of Physical Sciences of the National Research Council, the Joint Committee for the Development of Statistical Applications in Engineering and Manufacturing, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Inter-Society Committee on Federation and the Policy Committee for Mathematics. The last committee, which was appointed in 1946, will consider important problems that affect the mathematics profession as a whole.

Nominations: The Committee on Nominations, consisting of Professor P. R. Rider (chairman), Professor B. H. Camp and Professor G. M. Cox, has made the following nominations for officers in 1947.

President: W. Feller
 Vice-Presidents: J. H. Curtiss
 M. H. Hansen
 Secretary-Treasurer: P. S. Dwyer

While it is perhaps improper to comment on nominations, I should like to express my personal appreciation of Professor Dwyer's action in being willing to offer himself for re-nomination as Secretary-Treasurer. The successful operation of the Institute rests mainly on the Secretary-Treasurer, and the demands of the Office are even more continuous and exacting than those on the editor. Professor Dwyer's splendid work during his first three years of office, carried on at considerable sacrifice of his research interests, deserves the best thanks and appreciation of every member.

In conclusion, it is a pleasure to express my sincerest thanks to all committee chairmen and members and to all representatives for their excellent work for the good of the Institute, and to all Institute members for their loyal support.

W. G. COCHRAN,
President, 1946.

Committees of the Institute

<i>Committee</i>	<i>Personnel</i>
Development	E. G. Olds (chairman), C. I. Bliss, M. A. Girshick, F. C. Mosteller, P. S. Olmstead, H. Scheffé.
Membership	W. Feller (chairman), C. C. Craig, P. A. Horst, T. Koopmans
Program	J. H. Curtiss (chairman), M. Friedman, B. Harshbarger, W. N. Hurwitz, A. M. Mood, F. C. Mosteller, J. W. Tukey
Mathematical Statistics and Statisticians in the Government Service	W. E. Deming (chairman)
Revising the Constitution and By-Laws	M. H. Hansen (chairman), C. I. Bliss, A. T. Craig, J. H. Curtiss, W. Shewhart
Tabulation	C. Eisenhart (chairman), P. S. Dwyer, H. Goldstine, A. N. Lowan, H. W. Norton, G. R. Stibitz
Teaching	H. Hotelling (chairman), W. Bartky, W. E. Deming, M. Friedman
Nominations	P. R. Rider (chairman), B. H. Camp, G. M. Cox
Finance	P. S. Dwyer (chairman), L. A. Knowler, C. F. Roos, F. F. Stephan
Subscription to Purchase Annals for Countries Devastated by War	J. Neyman (chairman), W. Feller, P. L. Hsu
<i>Society</i>	<i>Representatives</i>
Inter-Society Committee on Federation	J. H. Curtiss, P. S. Olmstead
Policy Committee for Mathematics	W. Feller

<i>Society</i>	<i>Representatives</i>
Joint Committee for the Development of Statistical Applications in Engineering and Manufacturing	F. C. Mosteller, S. S. Wilks
American Association for the Advancement of Science	G. W. Snedecor
Division of Physical Sciences, NRC	W. Bartky