

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTE

Continuing the established tradition, the annual summer meeting was held at Wellesley, Massachusetts, August 12-13, 1944 in conjunction with the Summer Meetings of the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America. A regional meeting was held in Washington, May 6-7, in conjunction with the meeting of the Washington Chapter of the American Statistical Association. The programs were arranged by the Program Committee: W. Feller, Chairman, W. G. Madow, and A. Wald.

Even though, under present war conditions, research in the field of probability and statistics is very much curtailed, enough papers in mathematical statistics of satisfactory quality have been proposed for publication in the *Annals* in 1944 to keep the total volume of material at approximately five hundred pages or the level of the last few years. However, the outlook for a sufficient number of satisfactory papers to maintain the usual volume of publication during 1945 does not look quite so favorable.

Looking into the future, the Institute must continue to furnish, through the *Annals*, a medium for the publication of all important results of original research in the field of mathematical statistics as they become available. To do otherwise would be suicide. At the same time we must take account of the growing need for comprehensive surveys of statistical theory on the part of other scientists, including not only social scientists but also physicists, chemists, biologists, and research engineers, whose interest in the contributions of mathematical statistics has been greatly stimulated during the war. Only the mathematical statistician of broad competence can provide adequate critical surveys of this character. Perhaps some of this need can be met through survey articles published in the *Annals*, although it is not an easy matter to get capable men to do such work. Perhaps the time is not far off when the Institute must stimulate the preparation of such material by instituting an annual series of Colloquium Lectures patterned somewhat after those of the Mathematical Society, which could be published separately.

This is but one of many problems that the Institute faces in its post-war development. Not only must it assume the responsibility of stimulating and encouraging research and of publishing the results; it must also consider the problem of training the research statistician of tomorrow as well as those who are to apply mathematical statistics in the many fields of science. It also must assume some responsibility for keeping in contact with other scientists in order that the mathematical statistician may become acquainted with the unsolved statistical problems of the scientist. There are also many problems of a professional character that face the mathematical statistician in the future if he is to succeed in developing the profession of mathematical statistics to the level attained by some of the older scientific professions.

With the realization of the need for a concerted attack on some of these

problems, the Board of Directors at its meeting in May set up two committees, one on Training and Placement of Statisticians under Harold Hotelling and the other on Post-War Development of the Institute under W. G. Cochran. Interim reports received by the Board from both committees indicate that considerable progress has been made to date. They also indicate, however, that much more work remains to be done.

At the same meeting of the Board, a Budget and Finance Committee was set up, consisting of P. S. Dwyer, Chairman, C. H. Fischer, A. C. Olshen, and C. F. Roos, to prepare a report on the policy that should be followed by the Institute in respect to such items as investment of funds, advertising, preparation of an annual statement, and the like. Some of the work of this committee has already borne fruit, as, for example, in providing the actuarial basis for life membership adopted at the Wellesley meeting and in establishing certain principles to be used in conducting the business of the Institute.

A report of the Committee on Membership, W. G. Cochran, Chairman, P. S. Dwyer, and T. Koopmans, appears elsewhere in this issue of the *Annals*. Upon recommendation of this committee, the Board of Directors elected nine new fellows: Walter Bartky, C. I. Bliss, Gertrude M. Cox, P. A. Horst, M. G. Kendall, H. B. Mann, E. S. Pearson, Henry Scheffé, and W. A. Wallis.

The nominating committee for the year consisted of John Curtiss, Chairman, E. G. Olds, and F. F. Stephan. G. W. Snedecor served the Institute again as its representative on the Council of the A.A.A.S.

The annual election of the Institute just concluded by mail ballot resulted in the election of the following officers for 1945: W. E. Deming, President; W. G. Cochran, and J. L. Doob, Vice-Presidents.

WALTER A. SHEWHART
President, 1944

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