

THE ANNALS OF MATHEMATICAL STATISTICS

By

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For ninety-one years the American Statistical Association has held the van in matters statistical in the United States. At the time when our Association was founded, statistical method was an extremely simple science. In recent years, the technique has, however, been growing more and more complex. The *Journal of the American Statistical Association* has served all the members of the Association and an attempt has been made to cover, in its pages, all phases of statistical method. For some time past, however, it has been evident that the membership of our organization is tending to become divided into two groups — those familiar with advanced mathematics, and those who have not devoted themselves to this field. The mathematicians are, of course, interested in articles of a type which are not intelligible to the non-mathematical readers of our Journal. The Editor of our Journal has, then, found it a puzzling problem to satisfy both classes of readers.

Now a happy solution has appeared. The Association at this time has the pleasure of presenting to its mathematically inclined members the first issue of the ANNALS OF MATHEMATICAL STATISTICS, edited by Prof. Harry C. Carver of the University of Michigan. This Journal will deal, not only with the mathematical technique of statistics, but also with the applications of such technique to the fields of astronomy, physics, psychology, biology, medicine, education, business, and economics. At present, mathematical articles along these lines are scattered through a great variety of publications. It is hoped that in the future they will be gathered together in the ANNALS.

The editorial policy will be to select articles that will best meet the needs of the time. There can be no questioning the statement that at the present time there are in this country many more who need stimulation in the fundamentals of mathematical statistics than there are individuals whose prime interest is in the advancement of modern statistical theory. Therefore particular stress will be laid on articles of a fundamental nature during the first few years of the life of the ANNALS. The officers, after due deliberation, have chosen a new method of printing in order to facilitate the composition of original articles and the obtaining of reprints. A photographic process is employed, which will permit the Association at any point in the

future to furnish reprints or back numbers. The advantages of this to libraries and classes in statistics is apparent. A particular effort will be made to insert from time to time tables that must be constantly referred to by statisticians. Nevertheless, the chronicling of research will in no sense be neglected.

My personal opinion is that the advent of the *ANNALS* constitutes an important milestone in the history of our Association. I am sure that this new publication will be welcomed heartily, not only by the mathematically trained section of our membership, but also by the non-mathematical group, for the latter recognize that the more advanced phases of mathematics are rendering extremely valuable service in furthering the progress of statistical technique, thus aiding in the solution of problems of the greatest moment.