tion, for consideration as section chairman by the future Section Committee.

The papers presented at this first section session stressed the need to bring together the bench scientists, the information scientists, and the science writers. The pooling of ideas, the dissemination of information on the practical value of information tools and techniques, the gaining of fresh insights —these, the speakers said, are only a few of the benefits to be derived from bringing together individuals concerned with various aspects of information and communication. Seielstad felt that the section should institute and develop a listing of problems related to information and communication, identify the organizations or agencies engaged in work on these problems, and reflect progress being made. He stated that conventional techniques should be augmented and that advanced techniques should be explored. The usefulness of all media, he said, including publications, data processing, storage and retrieval systems, motion pictures, radio, and television, as well as systems proposed or under development, is related to the capability of the producer and the needs of the user.

Some areas which require study were outlined as follows.

1) Factors affecting administrative policies pertaining to information and communication. Underlying causes of common inequities in allocation of funds for research should be explored. In the research budget the scientist's requirements for space, equipment, and assistance are covered but his needs for intellectual tools are seldom recognized. A comparative study should be made of the policies of administrative officers in industrial research laboratories and in academic institutions as they pertain to information and communication procedures.

2) Problems of communication within the field of information and communication. Communication among workers in the numerous highly specialized information fields should be facilitated. The possible role of Section T in the establishment of a clearinghouse for information on new studies, methods, techniques, and systems should be investigated.

3) Interdisciplinary problems of communication. A multidisciplinary approach to information handling and processing should be considered.

4) The degree and extent of responsibility of the scientific society with respect to problems of information and communication. This responsibility should be evaluated by scientists in cooperation with information specialists.

5) Educational aspects. Qualification standards for science-information personnel should be established, and a study should be made to determine what curricula and types of institution are most suitable for educating and training such specialists.

6) Communication problems associated with the publication of scientific journals. The influence of the publication policies and practices of primary journals upon the rapid and free flow of science information should be studied.

7) Technical aspects of providing information sources and services. The problem-oriented versus the medium-oriented approach should be considered, and existing indexing techniques should be compared, with recognition of the different purposes served by each.

Section T provides a forum where all interested societies and individuals may discuss these and other important problems and work toward their solution.

New Section on Statistics

Morris B. Ullman

A new section, Statistics (Section U), was established by the American Association for the Advancement of Science at its 1961 annual meeting in Denver. This action of the Council, which brings the number of sections up to 20, was the result of a proposal by the American Statistical Association, in which it was joined by the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, the Biometric Society (ENAR), and the Psychometric Society.

Statisticians have long participated in the activities of the AAAS. For example, Carroll D. Wright, the eminent authority on labor statistics, was national president in 1903. Statistics, as a methodology, has long been presented in papers at annual meetings and in the various AAAS publications in combination with other topics. The 300 affiliated societies have included the major statistical organizations, which have associated themselves primarily with Section A (Mathematics) or Section K (Social and Economic Sciences). The new section will bring together groups primarily interested in statistics and will help sharpen the contributions of persons engaged in statistical work, in line with the major objective of the AAAS—to further the work of all scientists and facilitate cooperation among them.

In organizing the new section it will first be determined which associations wish to participate. The Section Committee, the principal administrative body, will consist of representatives of these organizations, together with four members chosen at large, a vice-president of the AAAS (who will also serve as chairman of the section), and a secretary chosen by the AAAS Board of Directors. Morris B. Ullman, of the Office of Statistical Standards, Bureau of the Budget, has been appointed secretary.

Current individual members of the AAAS who wish to be identified with Section U and nonmembers interested in joining the Association should write to the Membership Department, AAAS, 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington 5, D.C., indicating whether Section U is to be the primary or secondary sectional affiliation.

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