THE ASSOCIATION ROYALE DES ACTUAIRES BELGES
75TH ANNIVERSARY, 1970

The Association des Actuaires Belges was founded in January 1895 amid preparations in the international sphere for the holding of the first International Congress of Actuaries. The Institute was closely concerned with these developments, which directly flowed from the friendship with the young Amédée Bégault, the Belgian translator of the Institute text-book written by George King. Bégault, who became a corresponding member of the Institute, was destined to serve the Permanent Committee for International Congresses of Actuaries for 45 years; during the 30 years from 1909 to the outbreak of the second world war he was President.

Accidents of history prevented previous notable anniversaries of the Belgian Association from being celebrated in tranquil circumstances. The 25th anniversary suffered from the aftermath of the first world war, but was nevertheless marked by an international gathering, at which the Institute was represented, and by the conferment of the title 'Association Royale des Actuaires Belges' by the King. The 50th anniversary was quietly celebrated in Brussels in an atmosphere of thanksgiving for the end of Belgium's ordeal in 1945.

To celebrate the 75th anniversary, a full programme of actuarial meetings was organized, and actuaries and their ladies from 25 countries took part: 62 Belgian actuaries and about 75 actuaries from abroad. A prize competition had been announced in advance for the two best papers on the following subjects:

1. Determination of the heterogeneity of the classes of risks.
2. Application of optimization techniques to actuarial and commercial problems.

Eight papers were submitted and discussed. Four of these were by members of the Institute—Messrs T. G. Clarke; P. D. Johnson and G. B. Hey; J. H. Pollard; and A. J. Williams. The papers will be published in the Bulletin of the Association which is of course summarized in 'Notes on other actuarial journals' in J.I.A.

The Institute members present at the celebrations were Messrs R. S. Skerman (President), J. Hamilton-Jones (Vice-President), R. F. Beard and M. E. Ogborn (Corresponding Members of the Association), C. E. Clarke, J. B. H. Pegler, and two members from Australia, Professor A. H. Pollard and Mr P. Wickens.

At the opening meeting, gifts were presented by many of the countries taking part; Dr. R. Vliebergh, President of the Association, received the gifts in each case with happily chosen words. The first to be presented was from the International Actuarial Association. The Institute's gift was a
gavel and block in an oak box, with an inscription on a silver plate, and is illustrated on the opposite page. It is a replica of the gavel and block used by the Institute to commemorate the return to Staple Inn. The President, in presenting the gift, referred to the ties which had linked the Association with the Institute ever since its foundation.

At the closing meeting, the panel who had been appointed to consider the award of prizes, E. Franckx, R. E. Beard, K. Borch (Norway) and H. Bühlmann (Switzerland) announced their awards. The two prizes were both gained by Institute members, namely J. H. Pollard for his paper 'On fluctuating interest rates', and P. D. Johnson and G. B. Hey for their paper 'A review of the scope for using claims histories for individual policies in risk assessment'.

Besides the business functions, held in the Palais des Congrès in Brussels, a programme of excursions for accompanying ladies was organized; there was a delightful concert in the setting of the Musée Royal d'Art et d'Histoire; and a ball at the Métropole Hotel to terminate a memorable occasion.

J.H.-J.