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INTRODUCTION

This issue constitutes the twenty-first annual report of our Research Institute. The period covered by this issue has been a very active year, particularly from the viewpoint of the international exchange of scientific knowledge. Last April, the 1986 ICASP (The International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing) was held in Tokyo. The Twentieth Congress of the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics (IALP) was also held in Tokyo last August under the chairmanship of Prof. Ichiro Kirikae; Prof. Sawashima acted as the General Secretary. Then, last January, the Fifth Vocal Fold Physiology Conference was held in Tokyo. Most of our Institute staff actively participated at these meetings as speakers and as members of the Organizing Committees. All of the above meetings were equally successful and stimulating. It was a real pleasure to be able to welcome many scientists to our Institute during or after these meetings. Among these scientists, groups from Sweden, Czechoslovakia and the People's Republic of China spent time with us for scientific discussions.

In order to further commemorate the twentieth anniversary of our Institute, we planned the publication of a booklet consisting of articles related to the twenty years of the Institute. Fortunately, we were able to obtain an article from Prof. Kirikae and a message from the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the Univ. of Tokyo, and the booklet was published together with complete publication lists for the past and present staff of the Institute. We also planned a memorial symposium under our auspices entitled "Human Communication and Its Disorders". This was successfully held at the newly built University auditorium last September with a good number of people attending.

As reported in this issue, the research progress at our Institute has been satisfactory. It must be mentioned, however, that the x-ray microbeam system which has been very useful throughout past years developed several problems despite careful maintenance, and we eventually decided to discontinue the use of the system. This may be said to be "the end of an era" in our research program, since so much research development was obtained by the use of this system. Nevertheless, we have been developing new systems to open a new era, and we are sure that conditions are promising for future progress.

As for the publication and distribution policy of our Annual Bulletin, we will continue our present practice of sending copies to research groups in exchange for similar reports or publications. We sent an inquiry to the readers of our Annual Bulletin last year to ask their opinions and to update our mailing list. We are sending this issue according to the new list thus made up, but we would be happy to provide a personal copy to anyone who wants to receive it. We appreciate your continuing interest in our Annual Bulletin.

Hajime Hirose
Director

PERSONNEL

(April 1986 - March 1987)

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Shigeru Kiritani (D.M.Sc.) Professor of Speech Science

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Satoshi Imaizumi (D.Eng.) Associate Professor of Speech Science

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Noriko Kobayashi (Ph.D.) Research Assistant (Oct.-)

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