

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN CENTRAL AFRICA

THE events which led up to the granting of a Royal Charter to the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland on February 11, 1955, have been reviewed in *Nature* (172, 1; 1953. 173, 107; 1954. 175, 181; 1955). Now, five years after its establishment, the first results of degree examinations in the College have been announced, and it is opportune to review the five years of life of this flourishing multi-racial establishment. A basic principle in the foundation and planning of the University College was that there should be no discrimination in it on racial grounds, and, as was said in 1955 (*Nature*, 175, 181; 1955), "In a country where racial tension can arise, the position of a multi-racial University is especially important". The agreement of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother to become the first President of the College, and her presence at Salisbury when she was formally installed on July 5, 1957, were particularly happy auguries for the development of this young university institution. As President of the College she will preside at the degree ceremony on May 13, 1960, in Salisbury.

The first academic session opened in March 1957 with a total of 74 students, 8 of whom were African (*Nature*, 179, 612; 1957). During the session that has just closed there were 168 students, of whom 38 were African. The proportion of African students in the College is steadily rising, and, with the development of sixth-form school education throughout the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, may be expected to rise still further.

The University College is in special relationship with the University of London and the students therefore now take the degree examinations of that University. At the end of the session which has just closed 19 candidates sat for the B.A. General degree, of whom 17 were successful, one being placed in the first division. Six candidates out of the seven who sat for the B.Sc. General examination, and both of two candidates who took that for B.Sc. Agriculture, were successful in obtaining degrees. In addition, 23 out of 26 candidates successfully completed the course and examination for the postgraduate certificate in education. Of the total number of successful candidates, nine were African.

The examination results to date are a useful index of the soundness of the academic progress of the College. Nevertheless, the needed growth in breadth

and depth of educational facilities still depends upon financial encouragement, and it is with great satisfaction that the news has recently been received of an offer of a grant of £250,000 by the Nuffield Foundation towards the establishment of a Medical School at the College. Training in medicine is extremely expensive, and it was natural that the institution of a Medical School should be delayed until a number of other faculties had been established, although this ultimate development was contemplated from the start.

The generous offer from the Nuffield Foundation is made on the understanding that the teaching hospital for the Medical School takes the form of a new multi-racial hospital on the site of the University College. The University of Birmingham and the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland have agreed that when a Medical School is established at Salisbury it shall initially be an affiliated institution of the University of Birmingham. This means that, for the period of affiliation, the students of the Medical School of the University College will be prepared for the degrees in medicine of the University of Birmingham just as those in the Faculties of Arts and Science at present prepare for the degrees of the University of London.

As so often seems to hold for university institutions, the financial support of the University College is scarcely adequate for all that, on other grounds, it might hope to do. Her Majesty's Government, which in the past has provided capital money totalling £1,475,000, has recently made a further generous grant of £1,400,000 towards capital costs for the College. The Government of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland has provided £750,000 over the first five years, for recurrent expenditure, and one may hope that it will give further generous support during the new quinquennium to help to provide for the cost of the much needed expansion which is already planned. At present, besides medicine, the College lacks only engineering and theology among the major faculties to be expected in a university institution.

The working out of a plan for racial partnership in all its details vitally depends upon the co-operation of educated people of all kinds. The significance of education, and particularly the higher education of Africans, in the working out of such a plan must be clear to all.

F. G. YOUNG

ADMINISTRATION OF UNIVERSITIES

THE chuckles in academic circles when Prof. C. Northcote Parkinson presented his famous law to explain certain empire-building propensities of industrial leaders may now be echoed by chortles from industrial leaders who read an article by Parkinson which deals with related matters in universities (*The Universities Review*, 32, No. 1; October 1959).

Although British universities do not yet boast the organizational luxuriance of American universities—

the University of Pittsburg has a chancellor, three vice-chancellors, three assistant chancellors and sixteen directors, eighteen deans and a host of other executives—Parkinson asks whether British universities are not proceeding in the same direction.

A recent study of the expenditure of some fifteen British universities shows that the percentage of their allocation to 'administration' varies between 5 and 10.6 per cent of their annual budget, Bristol spending the least and Exeter bracketed with