

Table 2. CHIEF FIELDS OF STUDY OF OVERSEAS FULL-TIME STUDENTS

Discipline	Number of students
Engineering and technology	4,371
Social, administrative and business studies	3,048
Biological and physical sciences	2,717
Medicine and dentistry	1,727

universities were Oxford with 1,066, Cambridge with 949, Manchester with 941 and Leeds with 674 overseas students.

In addition to full-time students, there were 1,411 overseas students (945 men and 466 women) enrolled for part-time study or research. French and German students formed a far higher proportion of the part-time student population (167 and 158 out of 1,411) than of the full-time student population (72 and 225 out of 16,045).

EXPEDITIONS

Libya Revisited

A DETAILED study of the south-east region of Libya, one of the most arid and remote in the world and still largely unexplored, is to be made by a British team of fifteen civilians and servicemen in 1970. The expedition, led by Major D. N. Hall of the Royal Engineers, will spend about four months in the country, travelling around by Land Rover and camel and on foot, starting first in north-eastern Tibesti and then going east to make a base at Gebel Archenu. There will be three principal projects. One on landforms, led by a geomorphologist, Mr M. A. J. Williams of the Australian National University, will include studies of erosion with reference to past and present climatic changes in this part of the Sahara. The formation and behaviour of sand dunes will be investigated by Dr A. Warren of the University of London, while Mr Jean Maley, of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle at Montpellier, will carry out complementary studies on geology and he will also make pollen analyses. In conjunction with Mr Williams's and Mr Maley's geomorphological and palynological studies, Professor J. Desmond Clark, of the University of California, will look for signs of prehistoric settlements in the area, and particularly for sites of Upper Acheulian (c. 100,000–60,000 years BP) and Aterian (c. 35,000–12,000 years BP). Selected Neolithic sites will also be excavated. It is also hoped to carry out some detailed mapping.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Growth all Round

ALTHOUGH the planned rate of growth of British education was slowed down in 1968, when resources were diverted from home consumption to overseas trade and industrial investment, the report *Education and Science in 1968*, from the Department of Education and Science (HMSO, 14s 6d), has quite a cheerful tale to tell. The £2,012 million spent on education in Great Britain in 1967–68 was 5.5 per cent of the national

resources, compared with 3.5 per cent ten years ago when the figure was £733 million.

The number of qualified teachers in maintained schools in England and Wales reached 316,000 at the beginning of 1968, an increase of 10,500 in one year, and the ratio of pupils to teachers decreased from 24.0 to 23.8 between February 1967 and February 1968—four years earlier it was 24.5 pupils per teacher. This was in spite of an increase in the population of schoolchildren in England and Wales from 7.99 million to 8.19 million. Recruitment to teacher training is well up to expectations, and with some 105,000 students training outside the universities in England and Wales, the Robbins Committee's estimate of 111,000 places by 1973–74 will be exceeded several years early. An investigation of employment taken up by the 4,266 graduates who qualified as teachers in 1967 showed that 86 per cent were teaching in England and Wales, 3.7 per cent were engaged in voluntary work overseas or on further study, 5.8 per cent were teaching elsewhere and only 3.2 per cent were in other types of employment.

Since 1961 there has been an increase of 31 per cent in the number of students in all kinds of further education; there were 3.2 million of them at the beginning of 1968. This growth includes an all-round trend towards more full-time and sandwich courses, although within further education the fastest growing sector is full-time advanced work. Numbers of mature students also continued to increase, partly because of the opening of another eight college outposts for mature students, bringing the total up to thirty.

The report says that the Department of Education and Science gave special priority to the Natural Environment Research Council and to the Office for Scientific and Technical Information. The latter completed its initial period of rapid growth during 1968, and its annual vote for supported external projects is being increased from £370,000 in 1967–68 to £502,000 in 1968–69. The Social Science Research Council, which does not yet conduct its own research, awarded fifty per cent more fellowships and studentships in 1968 than in 1967. The Science Research Council, which receives more than half of the total science votes, had to devote a disproportionately large part of its grant to international organizations last year as a result of devaluation.

There was also more money for the National Central Library, which acts as a clearing house for inter-library loans. A grant of £201,000 has been made for 1968–69, an increase of £38,000 over the previous year. The money is needed partly to meet increasing requests for books from abroad, particularly from the United States.

CANCER RESEARCH

A New Broom

DR MICHAEL STOKER has not been director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's laboratories long enough to effect obvious changes, but the brief statement of the fund's chairman and Dr Stoker's own report in the fund's latest annual report leave no room for doubt about the way the laboratory is going to move. A reasonable proportion of its resources will now be devoted to the molecular biology of cancer.