



The number of full-time advanced students (as distinguished from those pursuing courses for first degrees or diplomas) shown in the returns for 1928-29 is 2082, including 374 women. The following table compares their distribution over the various subject groups with the distribution of the total number of full-time students :

	All Students.	Advanced.
Arts . . . . .	53.3 per cent.	39.1 per cent.
Medicine . . . . .	18.9 "	4.8 "
Pure Science . . . . .	16.7 "	42.6 "
Technology . . . . .	9.2 "	11.4 "
Agriculture . . . . .	1.9 "	2.1 "

Two-thirds of the total number of these advanced students were at work in London (696, including 246 at University College and 207 at Imperial College), Cambridge (378), Oxford (185), and Manchester (153). In the Scottish universities there were 182, and in the Welsh 97. Of the individual subjects by far the most popular among advanced students are chemistry (453) and physics (185).

The universities of Great Britain are drawing students from other countries in increasing numbers : so much so that more than half the total increase during the quinquennium in the number of full-time students is attributable to this source. Those from other parts of the British Empire numbered 2809 in 1928-29, being 14 per cent more than in 1923-24, whilst those from foreign countries numbered 1581, showing an increase of 26 per cent.

The financial resources of the universities of Great Britain are exhibited in the returns for 1928-29 in some detail. The incomes amounted in the aggregate to £5,174,510, and were derived from : (a) Parliamentary grants, 36 per cent ; (b) fees, 31 per cent ; (c) endowments, 14 per cent ; (d) grants from local authorities, 10 per cent ; and (e) other sources, 9 per cent. Capital benefactions received from other than Government sources in the course of the past five years amounted to more than £5,550,000, in which total are included gifts by corporations and individuals in the United States of America amounting to £1,700,000, nearly one-third of the total. Excluding these American contributions, the benefactions in five years amounted to less than one-sixth of the amount received as gifts and bequests in one year by universities and colleges in the United States, and about one-fourth of the amount received in one year by sixteen of the most favoured of them. The aggregate income is about half that of the universities and colleges of the State of New York. Sources of American university incomes are : (a) United States Government grants, 5 per cent ; (b) fees, 32 per cent ; (c) endowments, 16 per cent ; (d) grants from State or city governments, 26 per cent ; (e) other sources, 23 per cent.

Since figures for Oxford and Cambridge were not available at the beginning of the quinquennium on a sufficiently comparable basis to be included in the University Grants Committee's standard tables of financial statistics, the Committee's comparative statements of income and expenditure in 1923-24 and 1928-29 leave those two universities out of the reckoning. The comparison shows a growth of total income from £3,592,936 to £4,210,710, approximately 17 per cent. Rather more than half of the increase is under the head of Parliamentary grants. Income from endowment shows an increase of £72,822 (18 per cent), from donations and subscriptions £23,989 (26 per cent), from local education authorities' grants £92,926 (22 per cent), and from fees £44,267 (4 per cent). The proportion of Parliamentary grants to total income rose from 35.4 to 37.8 per cent, and that

of fees to total income fell from 33.7 to 29.8 per cent. The only institutions deriving more than half of their income from Parliamentary grants are three of the London colleges, two Welsh colleges and Reading. Oxford and Cambridge get, respectively, 30 and 25.6 per cent of their incomes from this source. The Committee concludes an examination of the question of the increasing dependence of universities on State aid with the observation that the large increase in the grants given by the State five years ago has served to stimulate rather than to discourage the generosity of the other bodies and individuals to whom the universities have to look for support.

That dependence is about to be further increased by the raising of the amount of the annual Treasury subvention from £1,550,000 to £1,800,000. The report stresses, in this connexion, the fundamental importance of the teaching staff and the library and expresses the hope that one of the first uses to which the universities will put any increase they may obtain in their annual incomes will be to improve the lot of teachers of the senior lecturer class, many of whom find themselves in a serious plight. In discussing the position and prospects of the junior staff, the Committee directs attention to the barriers which stand in the way of their obtaining posts in secondary schools. These barriers have arisen through the operation of the new salary scales for teachers in schools and, in Scotland, the requirement that, whatever their previous experience, all applicants for such posts must have had a course of professional training for school work. This is, the Committee thinks, unfortunate, as the universities and schools both stand to gain by such exchanges.

In the part of the report relating to the careers open to graduates we find : "The need for a much more extensive application of scientific research to industrial practice is becoming more clearly realised every day, and the scientific departments of the universities are the obvious training grounds for men and women qualified either to undertake work on the fundamental problems, which are the field of the Industrial Research Associations established with State assistance, or to devote themselves, in the service of individual firms, to the improvement of particular industrial processes. . . . Some years ago it was common knowledge that the 'market' for chemists was seriously overstocked, and that many men with first-rate qualifications in Pure Chemistry were unable to obtain suitable employment, but we gather that the market has of late greatly improved, under the enlightened influence of the great combine over which Lord Melchett presides, and that though the output of students trained in Pure Chemistry continues to be, perhaps disproportionately, large, it is now being successfully absorbed. . . . There is evidence of an increasing range of demand for men who have had a good training in Physics, Geology, Biology, and such applications of Chemistry as Chemical Engineering or Fuel Technology."

The demand for university graduates is, moreover, we are told, extending rapidly to the administrative side of industry and of business generally. While it has hitherto been rare in Great Britain, though common in Germany, to give to men of high technical qualifications a place on the directorate of an industrial firm, many of the large industrial organisations are coming to look more and more to the universities for men of good general education and balanced character for the responsible administrative work which the vast range of their operations now involves, and even the smaller concerns seem more willing than they were to have recourse to the same recruiting ground.