

A high proportion of the occupied population is notoriously poorly paid, and the age structure of the population is becoming increasingly unsatisfactory, the proportion of persons in the age groups up to forty-five years being lower than for Scotland as a whole, especially in the groups below thirty years, while in the age-groups sixty-five-eighty years it is more than fifty per cent above the average. The marriage rate is well below the Scottish average, but the mobility of the population is greater than is often supposed. Transport charges are a serious obstacle to development, and ferry and other tolls are notorious.

The greatest possibilities of development lie in tourist traffic. More and better-run hotels, improved train and bus services, the encouragement of walkers as well as road touring, and maintenance of more adequate information and propaganda services should assist to attract the necessary money from outside. The tourist industry would also stimulate such other industries as sea-fishing, the cultivation of fruit and vegetables, and local handicrafts. Afforestation linked up with timber-processing, quarrying and wool are other possibilities, all of which demand leadership. Orthodox methods are inapplicable to Highland conditions, and the establishment of a form of Development Board through Parliament may be ultimately required.

Educational Topics and Events

ABERDEEN.—During the interregnum between the departure of Prof. James Ritchie to the University of Edinburgh and the arrival of a successor, the University Court has appointed Prof. Walter Garstang, formerly of the University of Leeds, to take charge of the Natural History Department in Aberdeen.

CAMBRIDGE.—The Managers of the Balfour Fund have made the following grants: to W. Graham-Smith, of Gonville and Caius College, £200 for an expedition to examine the Devonian fauna of Scaumenac Bay in Canada; to H. E. Hinton, of Fitzwilliam House, £200 for researches on the biology and distribution of the water-living insects of Lake Titicaca.

At Downing College, Sir Albert Seward, formerly Master of the College, has been elected into an honorary fellowship.

LONDON.—The following appointments have been made: Dr. W. G. Penney, Stokes student at Pembroke College, Cambridge, to be reader in mathematics in the Imperial College—Royal College of Science; Dr. Charles Reid, since 1933 lecturer in physiology at University College, London, to be reader in physiology at the London Hospital Medical College.

The title of professor of applied physical chemistry in the University has been conferred on Mr. G. I. Finch, in respect of the post held by him at the Imperial College—Royal College of Science. The title of emeritus professor of statistics in the University has been conferred on Prof. A. L. Bowley, on his retirement from the University chair of statistics at the London School of Economics.

The following awards have been made: George Smith studentship to T. J. B. Spencer (King's College); Graham scholarship in pathology to C. H. Gray; Loch exhibitions to Miss A. C. Anderson and Mrs. E. M. Pegram (London School of Economics); Metcalfe scholarship for women to Miss V. M. Rossitter; *proxime accessit*, Miss Adasia Steinberg; Metcalfe studentship for women to Miss G. H. Keir; Rogers prize to Dr. R. P. Kemp.

Dr. S. J. Davies, who has been University reader in mechanical engineering at King's College since 1926, has been appointed, as from January 1, 1937, to the University chair of mechanical engineering tenable at King's College.

MANCHESTER.—Prof. J. L. Stocks will vacate the Sir Samuel Hall chair of philosophy at the end of this term consequent on his appointment as vice-chancellor of the University of Liverpool.

The following resignations take effect from the beginning of the session: Dr. T. A. Bennet-Clark (lecturer in botany, appointed professor of botany at University College, Nottingham); Messrs. Frank Morton and L. W. Derry (demonstrators in applied chemistry in the Faculty of Technology).

The following appointments have been made as from the beginning of the session: Mr. A. C. Lovell, to be assistant lecturer in physics; Dr. R. F. Hunter, to be assistant lecturer in chemistry; Dr. V. J. Chapman, to be assistant lecturer in botany.

The Metallurgical Department has received a research grant from the International Tin Research and Development Council.

OXFORD.—Prof. A. R. Radcliffe-Brown has been appointed to the newly created chair of social anthropology as from January 1, 1937.

Prof. Frederick Soddy has intimated his desire to resign the Dr. Lee's professorship of inorganic and physical chemistry to which he was appointed in 1919.

In Convocation on October 27 the honorary degree of D.C.L. was conferred on President J. B. Conant, of Harvard University.

Congregation on October 20 accepted by 68 votes to 32 a scheme for altering the traditional rotation for the appointment of the vice-chancellor and giving the Chancellor wide powers of discretion. The aims of the scheme are to get younger men and longer term in office. Some of the promoters of it would have welcomed a permanent vice-chancellorship. Others, while preferring the present temporary appointment, would like to have it thrown open to any member of Congregation. The present feeling, however, is against these radical changes and in favour, merely, of making eligible for office any head of a college independent of his seniority. It is commonly agreed that the present vice-chancellor—the Master of Balliol—who happens to be one of the younger heads of a college, is the most successful one of recent years.

The numbers of those who took research degrees at Oxford in the past academic year have recently been published. They serve to show the main groups of subjects in which research is being carried out. They are—physical sciences: 45 B.Sc., 17 D.Phil.; biological sciences, 6 B.Sc., 6 D.Phil.; medicine, 2 B.Sc., 2 D.Phil.; social studies, 5 B.Litt., 4 D.Phil.; modern history, 12 B.Litt., 6 D.Phil.; all other subjects: 23 B.Litt., 4 D.Phil. Thirty-eight of the forty-five bachelors in the physical sciences are chemists.