

cent, but there was no corresponding increase of public money for postgraduate academic work. The report says that "the student grapevine can be a surprisingly sensitive mechanism for transmitting quickly news about such changes" and it is no coincidence that applications for teacher training courses rose by 20–25 per cent. Unhappily, if the experience of Durham and Newcastle is typical, the colleges and departments of education are not prepared for this increase in demand, which if anything is likely to increase still further in the next few years. The Swann Report urged that more graduates should be attracted into teaching. Graduates may be more inclined to become teachers, but the lessons of 1967 and 1968 are clear—more opportunities are needed for teacher training.

The board says that, outside teaching, the provision of postgraduate training courses is hopelessly inadequate and bears little relation to national manpower needs. The graduate who wants to go into town and country planning or business management, for example, finds it extremely difficult to obtain a grant, whereas the graduate entering postgraduate academic work can usually obtain a grant—and on more favourable terms. The report says that "we can only hope that if the proposal for the Department of Education and Science to take over responsibility for all postgraduate training grants does materialize, a system of awards will result which is related to manpower needs".

Table 1. DESTINATIONS OF DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE FIRST DEGREE GRADUATES, 1968

	Men	Women
Academic courses	249	52
Teacher training	197	222
Other professional training	81	61
Available for employment	851	365
Gained employment	785	315
Seeking employment, December 31	32	24
Not seeking jobs	105	26
Status unknown	61	26
Total completing courses	1,483	726

With many more students applying for jobs, industry has been able to demand higher standards of its recruits and has apparently preferred to leave vacancies unfilled than to take graduates of lower standard. But the appointments board complains that the severe shortage of opportunities for getting good industrial experience in the summer vacation continues, especially where there is competition from sandwich course students. If industry is finding it easy enough to recruit as things are, there is, of course, very little incentive to organize vocational work for undergraduates. The civil service, on the other hand, seems to be an energetic recruiter just now, while local government authorities seem to be looking harder for graduates.

The Durham and Newcastle board says that it has successfully been able to use the national clearing house scheme for graduate employment, a welcome innovation introduced by Manchester University Appointments Board as a pilot project in 1967 and for the first time on a nationwide basis last year. The scheme is that the Manchester appointments board compiles a list of all vacancies from about 700 employers in May. All the universities receive copies, so that graduates have a comprehensive detail of jobs avail-

able. In June, the Manchester board sends a second list giving all the unfilled vacancies. So far, Manchester University has footed the bill for the operation but this year the other universities are to pay two-thirds of the cost. The clearing house is still very much in its infancy but, from informal talks with the employers, the Manchester board seems confident that it is proving a success.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION

Paying to Attend

THE British Association's new membership structure will be in operation for this year's meeting at Exeter, and participants will have the pleasure of paying £7 for their week of scientific stimulation or £3 10s if they are students. Previously, the annual membership fee of four guineas has included attendance at the meeting, but the financial plight of the BA has pointed to the need to make the meetings pay their way. There is now a separate membership fee of £2 for ordinary members and £1 for students.

The new junior branch, the British Association Young Scientists (BAYS), will pay 10s a year and £1 15s to attend the meeting, and junior BAYS, the under fifteens, will pay 4s a year and attend the meeting free. It is too early to tell whether the new charges will affect attendance, but BA devotees are not likely to be put off by the need to make a more realistic contribution, and now that BAYS are operating in several areas, there should be more enthusiasm among younger participants.

Exeter's contribution to the cost of this year's meeting so far amounts to about £5,000, and the total is likely to be much the same as that raised in previous years by other cities in Devonshire and Somerset where there is not a great deal of local industry to dip generously into its pockets. Towns are usually told that it will cost them £10,000 to £12,000 to be hosts to the BA, and contributions vary between £8,000 and £15,000, averaging about £11,000 to £12,000. Industry is the most usual source of funds, although once, in Nottingham, in 1966, the population at large contributed through an increase in the rates.

The meeting this year will follow the trend of previous years in catering more for the layman, with five public lectures about immunology, sleep, pulsars, gambling and resources from the sea-bed. Two all-day plenary symposia will be devoted to some well known British problems—how to make economic use of inventiveness in industry and how to manage the national environment efficiently to keep it unpolluted with room for people to live, work and move in reasonable comfort.

As usual, the sixteen special sections will be reviewing the year's progress and giving prominence to some topical subjects, such as geophysics and space research which the physics and mathematics sections will be discussing jointly. The general and education sections will also be combining, to ask what is the use of a PhD? The conflict of views from industrialists and academics should be well worth hearing. The tendency to provide more joint meetings is a sign that the BA now recognizes a growing category of members who are active scientists eager to learn what is happening in disciplines other than their own.