

sprays. Among the projects based on the Haughley farm material are a comparative entomological survey, a study of radioactive fallout in food chains under different methods of crop production, an investigation of the toxic hazards of municipal composts and a small animals feeding experiment involving the study of the differences in health of small laboratory animals fed on diets from different sections of the Haughley farms and elsewhere. The association is hoping to attract other projects using its land for comparative studies.

GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT

Oxford against Swann

THE myth that three or more years at Oxford leave a man uninterested in—and unwanted by—industry and commerce is dispelled by a recent survey of the first jobs of Oxford men. The survey, carried out by the new University and Industry Committee and published in the *Oxford University Gazette* (Number 3402, Supplement 3), proves that well over half the Oxford men who take jobs are employed by industry and commerce and that the demand for arts men is increasing.

The survey covers the years 1963–68 and reveals a remarkably consistent pattern of employment year after year. About 55 per cent of the arts graduates and 83 per cent of the science graduates leaving Oxford with first degrees for jobs in Britain end up in industry and commerce. At first glance, this may suggest that the strictures of the Swann Report do not apply to Oxford, but less than one in three of all Oxford science graduates and less than one in five arts graduates go into industry.

Of the scientists who read for higher degrees, 27 per cent take their first jobs in industry while 50 per cent stay in the universities and only a dozen of the 900 or so arts graduates who obtained their higher degrees over five years went into industry. The most significant change in the past six years has been a small increase, in 1968, in the proportion of scientists taking first jobs in industry—apparently at the expense of the proportion embarking on further academic study. In 1967, out of a first degree class of 631 scientists, precisely 252 stayed at a university and 192 went directly into industry. In 1968, out of a graduating class of 612, only 213 stayed at university and 200 went into industry.

The jobs taken by first degree science graduates in the five years (1964–68) show that 877 went into industry and commerce. The Civil Service and school teaching come a distant second, with 40 graduates opting for each. The notion that there may be a lack of demand in industry for arts graduates is another myth which the survey has demolished. Offers of non-technical vacancies are increasing—the figure for 1968

was 7 per cent up on 1967 and, by May of this year, was already 12 per cent higher than in 1968. Recruiting has a changed emphasis, however. The “general management traineeships” of the past have been replaced by specific non-technical vacancies; employers increasingly want to know how candidates have worked and what part they take in university and college life rather than what subjects they read.

The report of the appointments committee of Glasgow University for 1968 makes an interesting comparison with the Oxford survey. Science graduates with second degrees still look first to the universities when they start searching for jobs, but the report says that many “are very doubtful about their career prospects in the universities and are more ready than they have been in the past to investigate alternative careers”. Although the first choice is often a post-doctoral fellowship, the decline in the number of PhDs finding funds reflects the increasing scarcity of money for fellowships in the United States and Canada. Of the 283 men who graduated with first degrees in science, 74 began academic research and training while 74 went into industry. The highest starting salary for a man with a first degree in science was £1,300 and for a woman £1,200. Out of the 149 men graduating with first degrees in engineering, agriculture and applied science, 81 went into industry. Scottish nationalists will find little comfort in the fact that the percentage of engineers taking employment outside Scotland increased again to 35 per cent, compared with 27 per cent in 1967, but emigration has not yet returned to the 1965 level of 45 per cent. Among pure scientists, the proportion of honours graduates taking jobs outside Scotland increased (32 out of 55), but the reverse was true of ordinary degree graduates.

METRICATION

Coordinating the Change

THE Metrication Board has announced the names of the experts who will sit on its first two steering committees, with the task of coordinating the change-over to metric units in industrial materials and in education. The Steering Committee on Industrial Materials and Construction, with Mr H. J. Cruikshank of the Metrication Board as chairman, will concentrate on materials. Much of the work of deciding what should be done in the construction industry has already been carried out, and the Working Party on Metrication of the National Consultative Council of Building and Civil Engineering Industries will carry on its good work.

Mr Cruikshank's colleagues on the committee will be Mr A. G. Dawtry, Town Clerk of Westminster; Mr M. D. Clarke of the British Standards Institution; Mr A. W. Cleeve Barr, architect; Mr G. B. Colbridge of the British Steel Corporation; Mr A. S. Ellett of Ronald Lyon Co., Ltd; Mr E. W. Greensmith of ICI; Mr H. C. Hine of Denny Mott and Dickson, Ltd; Mr K. M. Wood of Concrete, Ltd; Mr I. H. Lightman of the Ministry of Public Building and Works; and Mr J. A. Harrison of the Metrication Board.

The Steering Committee on Education and Industrial Training will have a similar brief in its own sector. It will be responsible for finding out how the change-over is progressing, and how it can best be encouraged

PATTERN OF EMPLOYMENT OF OXFORD FIRST DEGREE
ARTS AND SCIENCE GRADUATES (1964–68)

	Science	Arts
Total	2,923	6,376
Destination known	2,777	5,566
Universities	1,094	1,251
Employment UK and overseas	1,164	2,661
Of which industry and commerce	877	1,240