employs nearly 50,000 people, was about DM2,000 million in 1969, although there is inevitably a fair margin of error according to the way in which the fringe areas of the industry are defined.

Military projects in which the Federal Government already has a large stake include the multi-role combat aircraft (MRCA), involving DM2,000 million, and the new trainer aircraft costing DM55 million. Among civil projects, the Federal treasury is contributing DM228 million to the development of the short-range VFW 614 aircraft and at least DM750 million to the European airbus, the A-300 B.

UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE

Oxford and Cambridge in Demand

THE demand for places at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge shows little sign of slackening off. This year, the universities attracted more than twice as many men as they could accommodate and more than four times as many women. But, while the total number of applications for places at Oxford was slightly higher than that for 1969, the University of Cambridge attracted nearly 400 fewer applications than it did last year.

These figures, which have been published by the admissions offices at the universities (*Oxford University Gazette*, supplement to No. 3440, and *Cambridge University Reporter*, No. 4719), show that although the demand for places at Cambridge is still greater than that for places at Oxford, the traditional disparity in applications for each institution is beginning to disappear. Both institutions also continue to attract many more applicants for each place than do other universities—Dr Geoffrey Templeman, chairman of the Universities Central Council on Admissions, estimated that the number of qualified applicants who were chasing places in all British universities in 1968 outnumbered the places available by about 1·5 to 1.

Table 1. APPLICATIONS AND ACCEPTANCES FOR OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE 1970

	Oxford		Cambridge	
	Applications	Acceptances	Applications	Acceptances
Men:				
Arts	1,465	756	1,687	828
Social Sciences	792	355	764	343
Science	1,728	813	2,451	1,222
Total	3,985	1,924	4,902	2,393
Women:				
Arts	1,041	275	1,097	168
Social Sciences	197	51	150	19
Science	554	167	629	134
Total	1,792	493	1,876	321

The educational and social background of students accepted for places at Oxford and Cambridge also differs significantly from those accepted by other universities. Fifty-six per cent of the students accepted for places at Oxford, for example, came from independent and direct grant schools, compared with 43 per cent from maintained schools, while for Cambridge the figures are 56 per cent and 41 per cent respectively. There is some indication, however, that the share of the acceptances which go to students from independent and direct grant schools has been falling slowly during the past few years, while that for students from maintained schools is on the increase.

Oxford and Cambridge also do not seem to share the difficulty found by most universities in attracting students to study science and technology—the demand for science places among the men who applied for places next October was not significantly less than that for other subjects. Both universities also experienced a drop in the number of applicants for arts subjects, compared with applications last year, while the number of applications for places in science at Oxford increased by 300.

UNIVERSITIES

No Change in 1968

THE University Grants Committee this week published the latest pamphlet in its series of statistics of education. The statistics, although they are two years old, make interesting reading and they indicate that the broad trends in student numbers and university finance which developed during the early 1960s showed little signs of change in 1968–69 (*Statistics of Education: Universities, 1968*; HMSO, £2.40).

The total number of students engaged on full time courses at British universities in 1968–69, for example, increased by 5·7 per cent compared with the previous year to 211,485. The number of full time teaching and research staff, on the other hand, increased by only 2·8 per cent, from 25,353 in 1967–68 to 26,067 in 1968–69. This caused the staff/student ratio to increase from 7·9 : 1 to 8·1 : 1. Looked at on their own, these figures seem to indicate that the government's desire to see teaching costs reduced in the 1970s was already being realized two years ago. But the figures must be seen in the light of increases in the numbers of students and staff in the previous year. In 1967–68, the number of students increased by 8·5 per cent while the number of staff increased by 11·5 per cent; the staff/student ratio has in fact remained constant at about 8 : 1 since 1958.

The exodus from the sciences into the arts and social sciences also showed little sign of easing off in 1968–69. The proportion of students studying science based subjects, at 55·8 per cent, was 0·7 per cent lower than in the previous year. Between 1965–66 and 1968–69, the proportion of students taking arts subjects increased from 41·9 per cent to 44·2 per cent, mirroring the decline in the proportion of science-based students. By far the most striking comparison, however, is that 23 per cent of the men were studying engineering and technological subjects, while only 0·8 per cent of the women students ventured into this field.

In 1967–68—the latest year for which figures are available—the universities received £216·6 million, chiefly as a recurrent grant from the Exchequer (£157·8 million) for recurrent expenditure and a further £78·4 million for capital expenditure. Salaries swallowed up more than 40 per cent of their recurrent expenditure, and departmental expenditure met by research grants took a further 11 per cent. The total grant to the universities therefore increased by 8·4 per cent, while student numbers in that year increased by 8·5 per cent.

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