

departments of chemistry, physics, and biology, or to start the new integrated course for premedical subjects, immediate arrangements were made with the Northern Polytechnic for first M.B. students to undertake their studies in a special class devoted to Charing Cross students; 85% of those who took this course completed their first M.B. The second M.B. subjects of anatomy and physiology were given an equally satisfactory pass-list.

During the clinical period the curriculum has been made more practical and realistic in several directions. The facilities for instruction in midwifery have been increased by an arrangement whereby students attend domiciliary confinements in London, and, now that the Kingsbury Maternity Hospital is part of the Charing Cross group, rebuilding is taking place at Kingsbury, which will in the near future furnish an up-to-date unit sufficient for teaching institutional midwifery to all the students. The time for which students are attached to selected general practitioners in their final six months has been reduced to three weeks. Increasing experience shows the extreme value of this tuition, and it is regarded enthusiastically by most of the students and practitioners concerned. The students themselves have responded to these increased teaching facilities by working hard. Of the 27 candidates who presented themselves for the first time at the M.B., B.S. (Lond.) examination on the last occasion, 22 qualified at the first attempt (incidentally including all the women). Two further successes in the M.S. (Lond.) examination now place this medical school almost at the head of all the medical schools in London for the number who have obtained the M.S. degree in the last three years.

The one great difficulty is still the cramped quarters in which the school is situated, but every effort is being made to find new accommodation and to alleviate the conditions under which everyone is working. Although the purchase of the 47 acres at Northwick Park for the site of the new hospital and medical school has now been completed, financial stringency makes it improbable that a start on the actual buildings can be made for some little time. Meanwhile during the summer vacation the school is being made more habitable by redecoration of the whole of the inside and outside of the present buildings in the heart of London.

The preclinical departments of *St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College* are now situated in Charterhouse Square. Here and at the hospital adequate facilities are available for instruction in all subjects, including pathology and midwifery. Over 100 hospital appointments are available each year to students who have passed their qualifying examination. Clinical appointments are available for undergraduates each quarter. Scholarships and prizes to the value of £2,000 are awarded annually.

#### Facilities for Research

*King's College Hospital Medical School* provides the clinical training for students reading for the degrees of London, Oxford, and Cambridge. The hospital serves a large residential area and has one of the busiest out-patient departments in London. The preclinical subjects are taught in the Faculty of Medical Science, King's College, London, where students are admitted for either the first or second M.B. course. At the college the students have the advantage of full college life and of associating with students of all the faculties.

The clinical curriculum is kept under constant review, and in January of this year some modifications were made in the clinical introductory course, to which great importance is attached. Upon the successful results of a pilot scheme every student now has the opportunity of seeing at first hand something of the work of a general practitioner. It is hoped that more time may be allotted to this valuable experience when the scheme is fully established.

Progress has been made in facilities for research at King's College Hospital Medical School. The Cowburn Research Fellowship has been established with a fund of about £35,000. Regulations have been approved and the first

Cowburn Fellowship is now being advertised. A suite of rooms in the hospital is being adapted to provide additional research accommodation, and research projects are assisted on the recommendation of the recently established King's College Hospital and Medical School Joint Research Committee. The larger part of the funds for research are provided by the hospital from its endowment funds; the Medical School Council has also made available for research certain of its trust funds.

The medical school has made arrangements with the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Toronto for an exchange of medical staff. The first exchange will take place this summer, when one of the King's registrars will leave for Toronto and King's will receive a doctor from that city, the holder of a Markle scholarship. A new demonstratorship in morbid anatomy has been established with the object of providing experience in laboratory methods and research for intending clinicians.

King's College Hospital is fortunate in having 23 approved intern posts available every six months for its newly qualified students. No difficulty has been experienced in securing posts elsewhere for the few students who have not been appointed to pre-registration posts within the teaching hospital group. During the 12 months up to May of this year 45 students gained qualifying degrees in medicine and dentistry in the Universities of London, Oxford, and Cambridge, including two with honours. Forty-seven students obtained the diplomas of the Conjoint Board.

At *Westminster Hospital Medical School* the number of clinical students in attendance is 203, of whom 16 are women. Sixty-six students are carrying out their preclinical studies at King's College, Strand, with a view to entering Westminster for the clinical period. Some 600 applications were received last year for an annual entry of 65; half are working for London University degrees and the remainder for Oxford and Cambridge degrees. There are 430 beds at Westminster Hospital for clinical practice allocated to general medicine, surgery, and obstetrics. The orthopaedic, the ophthalmic, and the ear, nose, and throat departments are also in the main hospital. Special instruction in paediatrics is provided at the Westminster Children's Hospital, where there are over 100 beds. The University has conferred the title of Reader in Bacteriology on Dr. B. W. Lacey, and of Reader in Morbid Anatomy on Dr. A. D. Morgan, and has added Mr. P. D. Trevor-Roper to its list of teachers recognized in ophthalmology. Mr. H. E. Lockhart-Mummery has been appointed to the newly instituted post of tutor in surgery.

The scheme of occasional lectures to the firms in general medicine and general surgery by distinguished visitors from other institutions has been continued at Westminster with success.

Forty vacancies a year in the Westminster Hospital teaching group have been recommended for pre-registration purposes and competition for these is keen. Visits to the surgeries of general practitioners and the use of the Nelson Hospital, Wimbledon, for midwifery instruction, by permission of the St. Helier Group Hospital Management Committee—both reported last year—have continued with success, and, in addition, members of the general medicine firm attached to St. Stephen's Hospital, Fulham, reside there in turn for part of the three-months period. This innovation has proved popular and is undoubtedly in the interests of the students. The various students' clubs are vigorously alive.

#### ENTRY AT OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE

*Oxford University Medical School.*—The number of pre-clinical students is restricted by decree. Selection of candidates is made by a central university committee; their names are put forward by the colleges, and preliminary acceptance by a college is essential for any prospective medical student. Students reading medicine at Oxford must in addition qualify for a B.A. degree. Most medical students do this by taking

the final honours school of animal physiology, which normally occupies them for one year after they have taken the first B.M. examination in organic chemistry, anatomy, and physiology. After taking the B.A. degree most students do a course of general pathology, bacteriology, and pharmacology, lasting two terms, before going on to their clinical studies. The clinical section of the school has a very limited entry, so that a high degree of personal supervision and opportunities for practical experience may be ensured. Usually about two-thirds of the clinical students are drawn from the Oxford preclinical entry; the remainder come from other universities. The University hopes by assembling such a mixture of students to minimize any risk of parochialism among students who receive their entire medical training at Oxford. The Radcliffe Infirmary (505 beds) is the main teaching hospital, and is an active centre of clinical research, but practical instruction is given also in the other members of the United Oxford Hospitals Group (1,250 beds) and in the Wingfield Morris Orthopaedic Hospital and the Littlemore Hospital for mental cases. In both medicine and surgery students spend half their time in a "firm" of four students and half in a "firm" of eight.

*Cambridge University Medical School.*—Admission to the University of Cambridge may be secured only by members of the colleges and of Fitzwilliam House. Most of the colleges will not admit candidates for the degree of M.B. and B.Chir. unless they have passed or secured exemption from three parts of the first M.B. examination. All college entries are subject to a university quota, and the number wishing to enter still exceeds the number of places available (about 220 per annum). Before a candidate can be admitted to the final M.B. examination he must obtain honours in a tripos (or if over standing for honours standard, in Part I of the natural sciences tripos), must reach a qualifying standard in anatomy and physiology (or pass a qualifying examination in those two subjects), and must pass an examination in pharmacology. Part I of the final examination—the basic subjects of pathology, pharmacology, and therapeutics—may be taken after two years and three months of clinical study. Part II, comprising medicine, surgery, and midwifery and gynaecology, may be taken two years and nine months or more after beginning clinical studies. Excellent facilities for bridging the gap between the preclinical and clinical periods are provided by the Long Vacation courses in elementary clinical methods and introductory psychology (including practical demonstrations) held each year in July and August. The course in elementary clinical methods is concentrated on instruction in the simple technique of making a proper examination of patients attending the general and special departments of a hospital; it includes lectures on the career of medicine, the social background of disease, epidemiology, and the practice of medicine in the home.

## MEDICAL SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

### An Intelligence Test on Entry

An innovation has been introduced in the *University of Birmingham Medical School* in that students on admission into the second year (the first preclinical year) are required to undergo an intelligence test conducted by the professor of education. As a result of this, each student at the outset of his career is given an intelligence quotient, and in the light of his subsequent performance it is hoped to gain information whether tests of this kind are likely to give any worth-while forecast of the student's aptitude for medicine. The tutorial system, which was instituted last year at Birmingham, whereby members of the clinical staffs of the hospital offer to undertake the role of tutors for groups of four or five undergraduates during their years of hospital work, has made a good beginning.

There have been two other interesting innovations at Birmingham. One of these, which was started a year ago, is a scheme on a voluntary basis whereby students in their final year may be attached to a general practitioner for two weeks in order to familiarize themselves with the work of general practice. The scheme was inaugurated by an informal discussion over a buffet supper to the participating practitioners and students, and many helpful suggestions for the future were made. The scheme is regarded as an improvement on the formal teaching of the intricacies of general practice by a university department. The other innovation was an exchange of students for two weeks with the University of Lyons. It is stated that the visit of the British students to the French university was not only enjoyable but instructive and helpful, giving them an insight into clinical work on the Continent.

The number of applications received for admission into the Birmingham Medical School shows little sign of falling, but the remark is made that, generally speaking, the quality of the applicants is not as high as formerly. The necessary arrangements to satisfy the requirements of the Medical Act, 1960, have worked smoothly, and all newly qualified graduates are in pre-registration posts. To endeavour to obtain the fullest possible working co-operation between the Faculties of Medicine and Science, the clinical research unit, which is expected to be opened before the end of the year on the Queen Elizabeth Hospital site, will not only have accommodation for research work in the clinical departments but later a department of microbiology in the same building, to house members of the Faculty of Science who are interested in that subject. This is a notable year in Birmingham Medical School history, for both the Vice-Chancellor and the Vice-Principal of the University are not only medical men but Birmingham graduates.

### Student Exchange Scheme

At the *Medical School of the University of Durham* the number of applications for admission during the academic year beginning in October next has been approximately the same as last year, and competition for entry has therefore been quite keen. Most candidates apply for direct entry to the second-year course by qualifying for exemption from the first M.B., B.S. examination by virtue of passes in the subjects of chemistry, physics, and biology at the advanced level in the general certificate of education examination. Plans for the first stage of necessary extensions to the medical school have now been approved and building operations authorized. The extension of the present building will provide much needed additional accommodation for the department of physiology and for the teaching of pharmacology. Student activity has been as keen as ever. The annual meeting of the British Medical Students' Association was held at Newcastle-upon-Tyne last year, and was very successful. The Durham Medical Students Union has again arranged a student exchange scheme with the Medical School at Oslo, and several Norwegian students have been welcomed at Newcastle during the summer vacation.

The session 1952-3 in the *Medical Faculty of the University of Bristol* has seen an increase in the number of students in the Faculty in that the maximum number of students who could be accommodated were admitted to the dental school and an additional year has been added to the veterinary school. The first students to take veterinary medicine at Bristol University are about to enter their final year. Work is about to begin on additional laboratories and a lecture theatre in the department of medicine. The main operating theatres in the Royal Infirmary have been equipped with new sterilizers, and air-conditioning has been installed. Research has carried some members of the staff far afield. A team from the pharmacology department, under the auspices of the Medical Research Council, visited Uganda to make some metabolic studies, and another from the department of anatomy is at present studying in Switzerland the effects of altitude on bone marrow. Some changes