

OVER-PRODUCTION IN THE PROFESSIONS.

At the Annual Convocation of the Bombay University, held on the 25th ult., the Report stated that some three thousand candidates presented themselves at the last examinations, of whom nearly one-third were successful. This, said the Vice-Chancellor, in his address, may be regarded as evidence of the growing popularity of the University, and the increased interest taken in its work by the natives of India, comprising among them Hindus, Mahomedans, and Parsees. But, asks the *Bombay Gazette*, are we quite certain that something like an over-production of qualified professional men beyond the needs of the community at large is taking place in India as well as in other parts of the world? This danger, if such it is found to be, is by no means confined to India, nor our other colonial possessions. It has probably reached its greatest development in Great Britain and other western countries, where the greatest over-production of the professional classes is taking place. In Great Britain there are twenty-four thousand medical men, and the medical schools are yearly adding to the number. The barristers-at-law number over eight thousand, of whom it is said not a thousand can live by their professional earnings. The plethora appeared so great, that last year, for the first time, the number of candidates diminished very considerably. It is the same with the other learned professions. Turn to Germany, six thousand recruits joined the great army of the unemployed of the professional classes, through the ever open gates of the universities. In France the same disproportion between the successful and the unsuccessful entering the profession prevails. To look somewhat deeper into this question, we may inquire: what becomes of that far more numerous body who strive to enter one or other of the professions, and, after spending their means and their youth, fail in their endeavor, and are flung back upon the world without resources and hope for the future? The Vice-Chancellor, the Hon. Mr. Justice Jardine, in the course of his able address, called attention to the fearful sacrifice of health and life too often entailed by students in their struggle to gain University honors. The early mortality among even the more gifted and the more successful suggests doubts as to the absolute perfection of the system which entails such lamentable results. It will not be denied that in India the benefits conferred by the better and more liberal education of the young men has done excellent service by infusing the learned professions with a higher standard of learning, and we cordially reciprocate the Vice-Chancellor's wish that the princely and wealthy classes of the community will emulate their predecessors by further endowing chairs on the medical side for the purposes of original research and bacteriological study.—*Medical Press and Circular*, 2967.