

Report on Visit to Some British Universities

August, 1926.

Administration.

In all the universities I visited I found the administrative work much more centralized than it is at McGill. In Oxford and Cambridge, under a system of colleges (where the teaching is mainly done) it would have to be so. The business of registration, payment of fees, examinations, reporting results and everything connected with degrees has to be centralized.

A candidate for a degree in either Oxford or Cambridge has first to pass a university examination known in the former case as "Responsions" and in the second as the "Previous Examination", although up to the present the tests prescribed by the several colleges, on the strength of which students were admitted, have been accepted for this examination. In Cambridge, however, that is now entirely done away with and no person is considered a student of the University who has not passed the prescribed examination or one which can be considered as the equivalent (College examinations are not included under this head). I understand that in Oxford also this is coming to be more and more insisted on. Following this admission examination a candidate for a degree has to keep residence for nine terms, that is, three years, and pass at least two, and in Cambridge three, examinations on prescribed work, and for all examinations the candidates must (generally speaking through their tutors) apply and pay the required fee to the Registrar of the University. The subsequent work of arranging for the examination in different places and posting lists of those eligible, is the work of the Registrar's office. The practice followed in the matter of preparing and printing examination papers will be referred to later under this head, but it might be mentioned here that the results are all sent in to the Registrar's office where all original examination records are kept.

Although in Glasgow there are Faculties, as with us, rather than Colleges, the same principle obtains. The Registrar's office is not only the office of admission, but also the place where arrangements are made for examinations and to which examination results are sent, and there, when the results are received, the lists for degrees are prepared. These lists are in all likelihood checked over by a committee of the Faculty concerned, especially in the case of candidates for degrees.