

schools, in many of which, it is alleged, singing is quite inadequately taught. To some extent this is admitted, and a School Music Union has been formed to remedy the defect in secondary schools for girls. Meanwhile, the Tonic Solfa College has recently formed a committee, upon which representatives of teachers' organizations are being elected, to inquire into the present methods of teaching singing, the provision of qualified teachers, and the policy of the Board of Education, which has been criticized in many quarters. Those interested in the matter should communicate with the hon. secretary of the committee, Mr. W. S. Desborough, Arosa, Netherby-road, Forest-hill, London, S.E.

### LONDON DEGREES IN COMMERCE.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Rapid progress is being made by the University of London in the establishment of its Faculty of Commerce. It is comparatively few months since the scheme was first adumbrated and placed before the City for amendment or approval. Already over 100 students are studying at the London School of Economics for their intermediate examination. The foundations are being dug on the site near Aldwych for the necessary extension to the school buildings. Everything is in train for the establishment of the External Bureau in the City which is to guide and assist external students.

This rapid materialization of plans will, it is hoped, induce still further support to the scheme, as a considerable sum is required to place the Faculty on a satisfactory footing. The London School of Economics is much overcrowded; it was so before the war, and now, with a great accession of new students, it has been obliged to spread into the derelict Y.M.C.A. bungalows on the Aldwych site. These will shortly be removed, and though every possible speed is being made with the extension to the permanent building in Clare Market, only a part of this can be carried out with the money in hand.

The literary side of the scheme is as yet un-ended. It is hoped to found both a representative commercial library and also to build up through endowment a published commercial literature for the students. One of the great difficulties at present is the absence of adequate text-books. These have got to be written, and it is impossible to hope that they can be provided through the ordinary channels of commercial publication. An immense amount of research work is necessary before anything approaching an adequate commercial literature can be built up.

Travelling scholarships will, it is hoped, be founded under the scheme. These will be tenable during the last year of the course and will enable the student to come into practical touch with the business affairs and methods of other countries. It is supposed that they will operate in the following manner. The scholarship holder will already have chosen the branch of business he is to enter, may already be engaged in that business, and will select the country into which his principal trade will be done. He will receive a grant of about £150 a year, a sum sufficient to leave him leisure to study, but not sufficient to make him independent of work in an office. He will thus pick up a considerable experience of business method and have the opportunity of studying social conditions and the customs of the country.

Many firms are entering likely employees for the degree, paying fees and giving facilities for attending lectures. One great City house has already selected eighty of its younger men for training. It is probable that some of these firms will undertake to provide the opportunity for study abroad in the final year—but it is hoped that a sum of money may be forthcoming to endow scholarships for this purpose and also for poor students studying in this country.

An interesting suggestion has been made in this regard with reference to the unemployed demobilized officer. It has been proposed that business firms anxious to help in the solution of this problem might select one or two likely men, suffering from lack of training, employing them for part of their time on condition that they studied for and took the commercial degree. After paying them a living wage and helping them with their University fees there would be an understood obligation on the part of the ex-officer to remain in the service of the firm. The amount of money speculated by the firm should not be great and should be amply repaid in service.

The University authorities emphasize the point that the course is specially applicable to the man engaged in business during the day. Such a man, they point out, if he was able to attend lectures on a certain number of afternoons a week, would get the greatest good out of the course, as he would be putting into practice in the office the lessons he was learning in the class-room and would bring to the class-room a keen sense of interest in those subjects with which he was concerned in the office. It is expected that the students actually engaged in business during their studies will far outnumber those who will devote their whole time for three years to taking the degree.

### SUMMER COURSES FOR TEACHERS.

The Board of Education are making arrangements for a number of short courses of instruction for teachers in secondary schools which will be held

### SECONDARY SCHOOL NOTES.

(FROM THE HEADMASTERS' ASSOCIATION.)

The increasing cost of education at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge is causing great anxiety to headmasters, whose old boys holding scholarships or grants as ex-Service students at these Universities write to them about the extreme difficulty of maintaining themselves. The difficulty has recently been aggravated by the raising of college dues and fees at a number of colleges. The honorary secretaries of the Headmasters' Association have been in correspondence with the department of the Board of Education which is concerned with the assistance of the higher education of ex-Service students, but that department has replied that the Board is unable to undertake to increase the amount of the awards, most of which are already made up to the maximum allowable under the scheme. It suggests that college authorities might maintain their old standard in favour of ex-Service students. The council of the Headmasters' Association has resolved to ask college authorities to do the same for holders of scholarships as the Board suggests for ex-Service students, or failing that to increase the amount of the scholarships. It has also decided to write to all local education authorities, putting the case for an increase in scholarships and grants awarded to students proceeding to the Universities, and to ask to be heard on this and other subjects by the Royal Commission on the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The following have been chosen to give evidence:—Mr. R. F. Cholmeley (Owen's School, Islington), joint honorary secretary of the association; Mr. W. Edwards, Bradford Grammar School; Mr. J. L. Paton, Manchester Grammar School; and the Rev. C. J. Smith, Latymer Upper School, Hammersmith, the president of the association.

In view of the fact that medical inspection under the new Education Act is due to begin in secondary schools on April 1, the council of the Headmasters' Association resolved at its last meeting that the officers of the association should take an early opportunity of pressing upon the Board of Education the views of headmasters as to what constitutes an adequate medical inspection for pupils of secondary school age. They will also urge the necessity of harmonious cooperation between headmasters and the school medical officers. It is reported that in some secondary schools maintained by local education authorities, in which a system of medical inspection has already been set up, friction has arisen. For example, boys have been summoned to attend for medical inspection at the central medical office without any consultation with the headmaster of their school. Headmasters fully recognize the value and importance of medical inspection, and are anxious to do all in their power to obtain the best possible results from it, but at the same time they naturally ask that regard should be had to the discipline and convenience of their schools.

As a result of representations made by the council of the Headmasters' Association, the Admiralty and Air Ministry have agreed to allow candidates who have qualified for Certificate "A," Officers Training Corps, to receive the same advantage, when attending a competitive examination for naval cadetships and supplementary first appointments in the Royal Marines and for admission to the Royal Air Force Cadet College respectively, as is accorded to candidates competing for admission to the Royal Military Academy or the Royal Military College—i.e., they are entitled to the award of the actual marks (between 300 and 600) which they obtain in the examination for Certificate "A." It will be remembered that membership of the Officers Training Corps is no longer necessary before competing for Certificate "A."

In view of the discussion on free places at secondary schools for ex-elementary boys at the recent annual general meeting of the Headmasters' Association, it is interesting to note that the scholarship scheme which was last week adopted by the London Education Committee imposes an income limit in the case of all free places. Under the old scheme there was no income limit in the case of candidates from elementary schools. "At the time when this regulation was introduced it was, perhaps, broadly speaking, true [so runs the report] that parents who sent their children to elementary schools