

THE UNIVERSITIES REVIEW

APPENDIX II.

SUMMARY OF THE DUTCH REPORT ON THE OVERCROWDING OF UNIVERSITIES AND HIGHER SCHOOLS IN HOLLAND.

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The above-mentioned report, published in February, 1936, gives statistical material about the demand for and supply of theologians, lawyers, medical doctors, dentists, physicists, chemists, biologists, secondary school teachers, librarians, veterinary surgeons, economists, technical engineers and agriculturalists. It also deals with the causes of the overcrowding and suggests proposals to extend the field of employment of graduates and to limit the number of students.

The Committee which made the report was of an unofficial character, and attention has to be drawn to the fact that both universities and professional organizations were represented on the Committee.

The following table out of the report gives the figures of students at the Dutch universities and higher schools:—

Year.	Number of Students.		1915-16 = 100
	Total figures.	Pro 100,000 inhabitants.	
1915-16	5,069	79	100
1925-26	9,438	127	185
1934-35	13,049	155	257

The number of new graduates is:—

1915-16 ..	580	1930-31 ..	1,366
1920-21 ..	923	1933-34 ..	1,623

The report emphasizes that it is not only the economic crisis which raises the difficulties of finding employment, but also that the change in social structure has had great influence. The report mentions as causes, the raising of the standard of living in Holland after the War, the tendency to move from the country to the towns, the development of the educational system and, finally, the fact that the students are recruited more and more from the lower classes. Neither scholarships nor the increase in the number of women students are supposed to have contributed to any great extent to the overcrowding. There were sub-commissions for each group of graduates, whose task was to give an outline of the labour market.

Primarily, the report contains statistics of graduates employed in various professions in Holland and the Colonies. In 1934-35 there were about 23,500 employed graduates in Holland, among whom were 5,000 doctors, 4,500 lawyers and 3,500 technical engineers. That means 1 graduate pro 305 inhabitants or 328 graduates pro 100,000 inhabitants.

After this the report deals with the question of the "classification of ages," which shows that the younger generations are more represented. The *demand* can be divided into a need for (a) replacement, caused by death, retirement, and so on, and (b) extension of the labour-market.