

SCHOLARSHIPS, BURSARIES, ETC.

University scholarships may be divided into three broad classes: (1) Entrance scholarships, (2) scholarships awarded during the degree course, (3) post-graduate scholarships.

(1.) University entrance scholarships are awarded annually on the results of the University Junior Scholarship Examination, and are as follows: University Junior, University National, and Taranaki Scholarships, in addition to some thirty or forty local and privately endowed scholarships awarded on the results of the same examination. In addition to the scholarships, and partly in connection therewith, a scheme of bursaries entitling students to free tuition is also in operation, as set out in detail below.

(2.) Scholarships awarded during the degree course are the Senior University, Tinline, and Sir George Grey Scholarships. The first two are tenable by candidates sitting for their final examination for B.A. or B.Sc., and may therefore be regarded in a sense as post-graduate.

(3.) The chief scholarships awarded at the end of the University course are the Rhodes Scholarship, the 1851 Exhibition Scholarship, the Medical Travelling Scholarship, and the National Research Scholarships. The first three are all travelling scholarships—that is, they are tenable abroad. The Research Scholarships are each of the value of £100 per annum, with laboratory fees and expenses. They have hitherto been offered annually by the Government, one to each of the affiliated institutions, to promote research work likely to be of benefit to New Zealand industries. By the University Amendment Act of 1914, however, the Research Scholarships are now placed under the control of the University of New Zealand.

So far twelve Rhodes Scholarships have been granted, of which five have been gained by students of Auckland University College, four by students of Otago University, and two by students of Victoria University College, and the last scholarship (1915) was awarded to H. S. Richards, B.A., of Canterbury College.

So far (1915) sixteen Research Scholarships have been awarded under the old conditions. Of these, four were in active operation in 1914 and two were taken up at the beginning of 1915. The subjects of research undertaken have been in each case closely connected with some New Zealand industry, or with some industry which, though not yet undertaken in this Dominion, may at an early date be an industry of importance in New Zealand. Even if the discoveries made in the course of the research have no immediate commercial value, yet the training of a body of students in the application of scientific methods to the national industries cannot fail to be of great ultimate benefit to the Dominion. Of recent years the inclination of Professorial Boards has been to endeavour to arrange for new research scholars to carry on the work as from the stage at which it has been left by former students. There is no doubt that such a method, taking into consideration the fact that the tenure is for two years only (though with a possible extension to a third year), is more likely to result in discoveries of economic value.

The following are the subjects approved for the Research Scholarships now in operation:—

Victoria University College: Silver-blight in fruit-trees (1914). The stopping-power of gases for Alpha rays; and, A determination of the thermal conductivity of pumice (1915).

Canterbury College: A systematic examination of the refractory clays, &c., of the Canterbury District, with special reference to their use for fire-bricks and furnace-linings (1914).

Otago University: The volatile constituents of red-pine and other New Zealand timbers, with the object of determining how the timber can be improved by chemical treatment (1914).

The University bursaries that were awarded up to the end of 1914 were, on the coming into force of the University Amendment Act of that year, divided into two classes—University bursaries proper and educational bursaries. The Act