

One point about the course last year which must be noticed is that for the first time since the inception of the new curriculum it has been possible to carry on the course of instruction till the end of third term of the fifth year. During the war the demand for house surgeons necessitated our compressing the final year's teaching into the first two terms, and classes from now on will have the advantage of the expansion of their final year's studies and continuous work under supervision up to the time of their final examination.

During the year His Excellency the Governor-General placed at the disposal of the University the balance of the funds raised for the hospital ships "Maheno" and "Marama" for the erection of headquarters and hall for the Officers' Training Corps, which has great potential value as a training-school for our students, not only from the military standpoint, but also from the side of physical culture. The hall, apart from its uses as a drill-hall, will give the University the use of a well-equipped gymnasium and a dining-room, which will add much to the usefulness of the Students' Union.

The number of graduates during the year was twenty-seven, and they have all been absorbed as house surgeons or in other ways.

#### EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE DEAN OF THE MINING FACULTY.

During the session of 1919 there was an attendance of twenty-three registered students, of whom twenty-two were entered for the Associateship and Bachelor of Engineering courses. Of the twenty-two no less than thirteen were returned soldiers, and of these seven completed their associateship course at the end of the year, and one completed his course in all but two subjects.

At the end of 1918 the Faculty recommended the lengthening of the associateship course from three to four years, with the view of bringing the time of study into line with that prescribed by the English and American schools of engineering. The amended regulations and rearranged syllabus were approved by the University Council, and came into force at the beginning of the session.

*Diplomas.*—For the first time in thirty years there was no award of the associateship diploma in mining engineering; and to prevent misunderstanding it is necessary to say that this arose from the war conditions prevailing during the years 1914–18. In the session of 1914 the Mining School was in a flourishing condition, with an attendance of thirty-one students. Most of these volunteered for active service in August, 1914, this number including nine in their final year. During the second term of 1914, and before the beginning of the 1915 session, twenty-six of our 1914 undergraduates were at Gallipoli or in camp, and in consequence our classes in 1915 were greatly depleted. During the sessions of 1915–18 young undergraduates came forward in fair numbers, but on their reaching the age of twenty volunteered for service abroad, with the result that our attendance in 1918 fell to twelve, and senior students were non-existent. Of the undergraduates who survived, thirteen resumed their studies in 1919, and, as already mentioned, seven of these completed their full associateship course at the end of the year. On fulfilling the requirements relating to practical work, these seven will be entitled to their diploma, but it should be noted that few of our young mining engineers apply for their diploma on the completion of their University course. As a rule they spend a year or two afterwards acquiring practical experience, and gathering the data for their thesis.

The diploma and certificates granted up to the end of 1919 are: Associateship in mining engineering, 94; associateship in metallurgical engineering, 48; associateship in geology, 18; diploma of land and mine surveyor, 42; certificate of metallurgical chemist, 72. Altogether the associateship has been granted to 114 individuals. In addition to these, 165 students have attended the school for instruction in one or more subjects.

*Employment of Graduates.*—Many graduates of the Otago School of Mining Engineering have secured important posts abroad. The eminence they have achieved is altogether out of proportion to their numbers, and this had led to the general but erroneous belief that Otago University trains its mining engineers mainly for "export." At the present time thirty-two of our graduates are employed in New Zealand at salaries ranging from £200 a year for juniors to £1,000 a year for seniors. If we deduct from the total number to whom the associateship has been granted those who have retired from practice or have died a natural death, and those killed or maimed during the war, it is found that the proportion employed in New Zealand amounts to 40 per cent.

Calls for young mining engineers still continue to reach me from abroad, which may be taken as a compliment to our school when we view the keen competition of English, Australian, and American schools. For their political, industrial, and educational development the overseas Dominions are under a heavy obligation to men trained in the Motherland. If New Zealand is able to reciprocate by lending some of her sons, would it be wise to discourage this interchange, which after all should make for greater efficiency and a closer contact between the different units of the Empire?

*Diploma of Architecture.*—The only door of entry to the Institute of Architects is by examination, and if architecture in New Zealand is to keep pace with the standard set in Europe and America it is evident that much of the instruction must be up to the University standard. A knowledge of the strength and testing of materials, of the analytical and graphic methods of computing stresses in roof, trusses, floors, &c., and of engineering surveying are now essential requirements for the up-to-date architect. By utilizing the engineering classes now taught at the Mining School, and the aid of one or two professional architects to teach the special subjects, the full course required by young architects could be undertaken by the University at a small cost. Last September I brought this matter before Mr. J. L. Salmond, President of the New Zealand Institute of Architects, and he expressed himself as entirely of my mind on this matter.