

10. "MORTALITY" IN EXAMINATIONS.

(a.) College Examinations.

Returns with respect to 1924 show that of the students who enrolled and actually attended at least some lectures 17 per cent. in the case of the day-students and 30 per cent. in the case of the evening students failed to keep college terms. The following table gives the figures for each subject under review, and also indicates (column (c)) the mortality amongst "freshmen":—

Subject.	(a.) Number enrolled.		(b.) Percentage failed to keep Terms.			(c.) Failed "Freshmen."
	Full Time.	Part Time.	Full Time.	Part Time.	All Students.	Per Cent.
			Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
English	156	340	19	31	27	32
Education	60	400	13	11	11	14
History	86	286	4	13	10	18
Philosophy	72	171	15	25	22	31
Latin	77	218	16	42	35	40
French	149	271	12	32	25	29
Economics	36	265	8	15	15	24
Pure Mathematics	130	124	24	64	44	40
Applied Mathematics	75	46	17	48	29	26
Physics	233	62	22	32	24	26
Chemistry	233	72	21	44	27	28
Botany	88	36	1	8	3	12
Law subjects*	46	428	43	48	48	50
Totals	1,441	2,709	17	30	25	31

* Contracts, Property (Part I), Jurisprudence, and Roman Law.

In the returns for four subjects—English, Education, History, and Philosophy—training-college students were distinguished from other evening students, but on the whole no difference in the percentage of failures is disclosed.

(b.) University of New Zealand Examinations.

The figures immediately preceding show that the college terms requirements exercise a relatively stern selective influence on freshmen compared with non-freshmen and on evening students compared with day-students. It is perhaps not surprising to find that the results of the degree examinations conducted by the University of New Zealand show no significant difference between these groups. In the degree examinations the failures amount to 13 per cent. of the students who attended college lectures; the percentage of freshmen is 12; of day-students it is 12, and of evening students 13. Allowance, must, of course, be made for the greater elimination of evening students and freshmen in college examinations, but even then there is no appreciable difference between the success of these students and the success of others in the degree examinations.

A marked difference does, however, occur as between subjects. The following indicate the number of failures in the University of New Zealand's degree examination, expressed as percentages of the enrolment in the various subjects at the four colleges, 1924: English, 18 per cent.; Education, 9 per cent.; History, 4 per cent.; Philosophy, 7 per cent.; Latin, 15 per cent.; French, 17 per cent.; Economics, 5 per cent.; Pure Mathematics, 20 per cent.; Applied Mathematics, 16 per cent.; Physics, 7 per cent.; Chemistry, 11 per cent.; Botany, 6 per cent.; Law subjects, 16 per cent.

Duration of Course prior to Degrees.—The following shows the average length of the course taken by University students who graduated in 1925:—

Degree.	Years in Course.	Degree.	Years in Course.
B.A.	3.9	M.B. or Ch.B.	6.0
B.Sc.	4.1	M.A.	5.3
LL.B.	5.1	M.Sc.	5.4

The most useful comparison is that between full-time and part-time students, and this is made with respect to the degrees of B.A. and B.Sc. For the former degree the average length of the course was 3.3 years for full-time students, and 4.2 years for part-time students; for the B.Sc. degree the figures are 3.8 years and 4.9 years respectively. Otherwise expressed: of the 166 students who gained these degrees, 68 were full-time students and 98 were evening students during the greater part of their course, and 70 per cent. of full-time students, compared with 37 per cent. of evening students, completed in 3 years; 88 per cent. of full-time and 64 per cent. of evening students completed within 4 years.