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ACCREDITING

(continued from previous page)

Mr. McQueen: How many subjects in the new examination?

Dr. Beeby: Three from a list of 14 laid down by the university, and two others from the School Certificate list.

Mr. McQueen: A pupil who already has a School Certificate will need to pass the university three, I take it.

Dr. Beeby: That is so. He or she must present and pass the three in one year, of course.

Mrs. Lloyd: It's not going to be easy, is it?

Dr. Beeby: No—and rightly so, I think. If a pupil is not accredited, then there shouldn't be an easy back door. However, there are other safeguards as well. A pupil who proposes to satisfy the conditions for entrance to the university by examination must be at least 16 on December 31 of the year in which the Entrance Examination is taken.

Mr. McQueen: Are there any stipulations as to subjects at all?

Dr. Beeby: Only that the candidate must pass in English—either in this Entrance Examination or at the School Certificate stage.

Mrs. Lloyd: Thinking back over what you said earlier, Dr. Beeby. I've been wondering how this will affect schools that are not on the list you spoke of.

Dr. Beeby: The list approved by the university for accrediting?

Mrs. Lloyd: Yes. What happens with schools not on the list?

Dr. Beeby: Their pupils will have to satisfy the conditions for the new Entrance Examination.

Mr. McQueen: That is, pass in three subjects plus two of the School Certificate, including English, and they must be 16 in the December of the year they sit.

New Bursary Scheme

Mrs. Lloyd: Isn't that going to be rather difficult for pupils of small schools in the country—district high schools, for example? One of my friends taught in one of those, and from what she told me I gathered that it would be pretty hard to give a boy or a girl in the Sixth Form all the help that would be needed.

Dr. Beeby: I quite agree. The Minister has recognised that recently by his announcement of a new system of bursaries called "Secondary School Bursaries." These are specifically intended for pupils of schools such as you mention, Mrs. Lloyd. A pupil who has passed the School Certificate Examination will be entitled to a bursary of up to £40 a year if required to live away from home to continue studies at another post-primary school to become accredited. I haven't included all the conditions in what I've just said, of course. I only wanted to meet Mrs. Lloyd's objections.

Mrs. Lloyd: It wasn't an objection really. I'm glad I raised the point, though.

The Question of Subjects

Mr. McQueen: Now there are still a few things to be cleared up about accrediting. How about compulsory subjects?

Dr. Beeby: There are now no restrictions on the subjects that a pupil takes if he wishes to be accredited. But you must remember that the principal of his school must certify that the pupil is fit to undertake university studies.

(continued on next page)