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ANGLETERRE

The Training of Mathematics Teachers in England. ¹

I. — GENERAL PREPARATION OF CANDIDATES.

TEACHERS of Mathematics will normally have spent their early years in a Public Elementary School, the Preparatory Department of a Secondary School, or a private Preparatory School. From either of the first two transference to a Secondary School takes place at about 11 +, but the private Preparatory School generally sends pupils on to the Public Schools (Secondary) at about 13 +. Transfer from the school to the University generally takes place at eighteen to nineteen years of age.

At the Secondary School a general course is followed up to the age of about sixteen, when the First Examination is taken. The curriculum includes the study of English, Scripture, Geography, History; one, two or three foreign languages; Mathematics always, and Science generally. Of the foreign languages French is the first choice in most cases, Latin the second, and Greek or German the third. The number of pupils taking German is now tending to increase.

From the passing of the First Examination until entrance to a University a more specialized course is followed. Those who will ultimately be taking a degree in Mathematics will commonly have spent most of their time during these years in reading as their principal subjects Mathematics and Physics, or Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry, or less frequently Pure Mathematics; as subsidiary subjects they generally devote some time to English and to a modern foreign language. In the older universities of Oxford and Cambridge some Latin is required from candidates for a mathematical degree, but the Latin done in preparation for the First Examination at sixteen years of age meets the requirements. In the more recently established universities Latin is not required from those who are taking a mathematical degree.

Of the Secondary teachers in England who are trained, the great majority have spent four years in one of the universities and have taken the University Diploma in Education. The first three years are occupied in taking the University degree, which may be an

¹ Ce texte est conforme à celui que la Délégation anglaise, présidée par M. H. NEVILLE, a publié dans la *Mathematical Gazette*, Vol. XVI, N° 221, p. 334-336.

ordinary or pass degree in a group of subjects or an Honours degree in a much more limited number of subjects, and often only one subject. The fourth year is given up wholly to the professional training, which is entirely divorced from the academic or scientific training, and may, indeed, be taken at a different university.

It should be made clear that while opportunities for training exist, there are no regulations laying down that training, or indeed a University degree, is necessary for teachers of Secondary schools. The following figures may, however, be interesting. In 1913, of the men teaching in Secondary schools, 71.6 per cent. were graduates, 37.5 per cent. were trained and 27.9 per cent. were trained graduates; the corresponding figures for the women being 52.3 per cent., 47.4 per cent. and 29.7 per cent. In 1931, of the men, 83.6 per cent. were graduates, 49 per cent. were trained and 44 per cent. were trained and graduates; corresponding figures for the women being 65.5 per cent., 46 per cent. and 39 per cent. It will be seen that nowadays the great majority of the teachers are graduates. The Honours graduates in Mathematics will usually have a good knowledge of Applied Mathematics, Mechanics, and Physics, but not necessarily of Philosophy, History or foreign languages. Of the pass graduates the majority—those who hold a Science degree—will have some knowledge of the same subjects, but the others, with an Arts degree, may have combined Pure Mathematics with literary subjects.

Four Year students, *i.e.* those who are taking a three-year degree course of academic study, followed by a year of professional training in a University Training Department, are eligible for grants towards their tuition and maintenance from the Board of Education provided that they intend on the completion of their course to teach in state-aided schools. The tuition grant for the degree course varies with the fees charged and is, as a rule, sufficient to meet the whole of the fees. The tuition grant for the postgraduate training is £35; at some University Training Departments this covers the charges, at others the students pay a fee. The maintenance grant in each of the four years is £43 for a man and £34 for a woman, if resident in a college or recognised hostel; £26 for a man and £20 for a woman if not so resident.

II. — THEORETICAL SCIENTIFIC TEACHING, *i.e.* THE DEGREE COURSE.

The preparation for the degree in the case of Mathematics (pure, applied, and mechanics) is carried out almost entirely by means of lectures, exercises, and preparation. The number of lectures in these subjects would vary considerably, but in many cases would be about ten to twelve per week. The time given to exercises and preparation