

SCIENCE

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DOCTORATES CONFERRED BY AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

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THE universities of the United States have this year conferred the degree of doctor of philosophy¹ on 437 candidates, a considerable increase over the number in any preceding year. In the ten-year period from 1898 to 1907 the average number was 272.4, in the four last years the numbers have been 378, 389, 358 and 437. About 50 Americans receive annually the degree of doctor of philosophy or its equivalent abroad, and about three fourths of those who carry forward scientific research hold the degree. The writer has compiled data, not yet published, which show that about three fourths of those who receive the doctor's degree in science continue to do scientific work. From these figures it appears that about four hundred a year are added to those engaged in scientific and scholarly work. This is a small number compared with those who enter other professions, but it is at all events gratifying that it has about doubled since the publication of

¹Including two doctorates of science, one at Harvard and one at New York, and two doctorates of engineering, one at the Massachusetts Institute and one at the Ohio State. The latter degree may be desirable, the former is not. When 239 degrees are given in the natural and exact sciences it is rather absurd to call 237 of them doctorates of philosophy and two doctorates of science. At Harvard the doctorate of philosophy does not mean that the candidate has studied Latin in the secondary school, but the doctorate of science means that he has not. In the interests of consistency the degree of master of science was established several years ago at Harvard, but it was soon abandoned. The doctorate of science should be permitted to follow it.

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