The greater the number of students sent on for graduate work, the greater will be the number of better prepared and inspiring teachers to return to the colleges and universities to stimulate more research students. It will contribute both to our number of better teachers and to that increasing number of men who plan for research work in either pure or applied fields.

There is another group of students which deserves especial attention, *viz.*, those who, on completion of their college work, find themselves not quite prepared for graduate study. They are excellent students but, unwisely, have gone to a college whose curriculum is meager and inadequate. In this same class is the good student in the good college who finds his field of work late in his college course. This does not offer time to get the background essential for later specialization. For both of these groups, often financially embarrassed, there should be some sort of a continuation school. An attempt is made in a few departments of Amherst College to meet this difficulty by appointing such men as half-time laboratory assistants. These assistantships pay a definite stipend plus tuition. By taking two or three courses along with the assisting it becomes possible to patch the deficiency of preparation for graduate work.

These strategical periods in which help might be rendered fall within or immediately after the college days when students decide, for the most part, what they are going to do for a life work. Many wish to go on for a scholastic career but can't face the financial difficulties. They drift into business and thus are lost to the educational profession. Surely that occasion when men are debating what they should do for a profession is the strategical one in which to offer some financial relief. It is a period fraught with the greatest possibilities for developing the spirit of research in our country.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LYONS

THE idea of the important reorganization of the Faculté de médecine de Lyon originated, according to the *Journal* of the American Medical Association, with Mr. Vincent, president of the Rockefeller Foundation. The city of Lyons was building a model hospital in the suburbs of Lyons, at Grange Blanche, which consisted of numerous separate pavilions, each of which comprised, in addition to wards for patients, a laboratory and a room for class instruction. Mr. Vincent, visiting the building in process of construction, was struck with its unusually fine location and suggested that the faculté de médecine itself be located in the center of the group of hospitals. The dean of the faculty, Professor Jean Lepine, replied that that would require more funds than the city of Lyons could furnish. Mr. Vincent thereupon offered to supply 41,000,000 francs from the funds of the Rockefeller Foundation for the realization of the project, on condition that the remaining 15,000,000 francs be furnished by the government or the city of Lyons. M. Poincaré approved at once an appropriation of 12,000,000 francs and the city of Lyons voted the remaining 3,000,000 francs. The Rockefeller Foundation had previously given 800,000 francs to the Oeuvre franco-américaine de l'enfance and to the Hôpital d'enfants, which are directed by Madame Edmond Gillét. When completed, the new faculté de médecine, with the hospitals grouped about it, will occupy a considerable area. It will be equipped in the most modern manner, with numerous laboratories, lecture halls, elevators, a machinery hall and the like. This concentration will greatly facilitate the work of the students, who have heretofore been obliged to work in several hospitals scattered about the city, often great distances apart. They will have, furthermore, the advantage of being in continuous contact with their instructors. Since the new buildings will be situated some distance from the center of the city, dormitories for the students will be created near the faculté de médecine, constituting a small cité universitaire after the manner of the one now being constructed in Paris. The only objection seems to be that some professors will find trouble in looking after their clientèle.

INVESTIGATION OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

A PARTY of sixteen scientific men is reported in the New York *Times* to have recently arrived in Australia from Great Britain to study the problems of the Great Barrier Reef. For more than 1,200 miles along the eastern coast of tropical Australia, at an average distance from the shore of fifty miles, polyps have built a limestone rampart, to which they add every year thousands of tons of lime extracted from solution in the sea-water. How they do it is understood but imperfectly, and will form one of the most important of the investigations. Many other chemical and biological problems will engage their attention.

Dr. C. M. Yonge, leader of the expedition, has spent much time in research at the Plymouth Biological Station. The study of the biochemical changes accompanying the absorption and deposition of the limy substances of coral will be largely his work.

His wife, who is a qualified surgeon, accompanies him and will act as medical officer to the expedition. The expedition includes biologists, chemists, botanists, zoologists and geographers.

Dr. Yonge stated that:

> Each member of the party is a specialist, and so the work done on the reef will be simply an extension of the investigations which have already been carried out in Britain. In addition to our inquiry into problems which have at the present only an academic interest, we intend to tackle several important economic problems, but our work will be very definitely limited by the means at our disposal.
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> Many species of edible fish abound in the channel between the reef and the shore, but for a full investigation of these from the commercial aspect a steam trawler would be necessary, so we do not hope for any striking results in that direction. The search for sponges of commercial value will be similarly limited. The culture of the pearl oyster and of the trochus shell, both very valuable articles in the world's trade, will probably yield good results, for we will be able to experiment with these during our thirteen months' stay on the reef.
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> Molluscs are comparatively easy to rear, and from my experience of the oyster beds on the French coast I believe that it should be possible to produce these in large quantities on several parts of the reef. We hope, too, to begin work on the migrations of the edible turtle and the hawk's-bill turtle, from which the valuable "tortoise-shell" of commerce is obtained Until the wanderings of these animals are understood, it is hopeless to attempt to frame legislation to protect them by controlling the industry. The one thing certain is that promiscuous killing of them will ruin a valuable commercial asset.

The expedition will cost £10,000, of which £8,000 has already been subscribed by various scientific and other bodies, the Commonwealth of Australia and a number of private individuals. The chief purpose of the enterprise is research into the composition and formation of the coral reefs and their biology, and in order to examine the growth and feeding of the coral polyps in every season the expedition will continue work for more than a year.

THE FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY OF THE FOREST SERVICE

WITH one man in four of the technical staff in the field, the forest products laboratory of the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has carried on more investigations outside its own walls this summer than it has for some years past.

Twenty members of the staff have been detailed to studies in forests and sawmills from the Appalachian region to the Pacific Northwest. Some of the men were out for a few weeks only. Others have been away from the headquarters at Madison, Wis., for several months.

The increased amount of field work has been occasioned largely by the efforts being made to get fundamental lumber moisture data, and by the increasing tendency of laboratory studies to dovetail with management problems of the Forest Service on the national forests. The National Lumber Manufacturers' Association, through its trade extension organization, is cooperating with the laboratory in the moisture content study.

R. D. Garver, J. B. Cuno, Ray Miller and A. C. Wollin have been in North Carolina and Virginia for several months on an Appalachian logging and milling study similar to the studies already completed for the Lake States and Arkansas regions.

E. M. Davis, R. P. A. Johnson, G. C. Morbeck and F. E. Durfey are making observations on characteristic defects of western species in Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon and California.

Rolf Thelen, L. L. DeFlon, E. C. Peck, E. C. Rietz and O. W. Torgeson are obtaining information on the shipping moisture content of lumber at mills in California, the Inland Empire and the Pacific Northwest.

F. L. Browne is engaged in inspections of paint test fences in the southwest, in California, in the Pacific Northwest and at intermediate points.

A. O. Benson is in northern Wisconsin on a study of small dimension stock production.

W. K. Loughborough is making a survey of moisture content of lumber at southern pine mills for the Southern Pine Association. The objective of the association in this study is eventually to be able to make moisture content a part of specifications for each lumber grade.

R. F. Luxford has been in California for two months collecting redwood logs for mechanical tests.

J. D. MacLean is visiting western states from Montana to New Mexico to get information on the preservative treatment of Rocky Mountain tie species and Coast Douglas fir.

M. Y. Pillow is studying the occurrence of compression wood in western species in the California-Pacific Northwest-Inland Empire region.

R. M. Wirka is engaged in an inspection of treated crossties in service in Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Nevada and Arizona.

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THE 1928–29 sessions of the graduate school of the Department of Agriculture will open with the week beginning October 15.

According to tentative plans, probably four graduate courses will be offered and conducted by the school if justified by demand. These courses are: