

the University of Wales, and Queen's University, Belfast, were created, and the Scottish universities were awarded an additional member. At the same time, reforms were effected in the qualification for the university vote which immensely increased the number of voters in the existing university constituencies, particularly in Oxford and Cambridge. It was also enacted that whenever a university constituency returned two or more members, the elections should be conducted according to that variety of proportional representation known as the single transferable vote.

As a result of these reforms, the university constituencies, at the date of the general election in 1929, were as follows :

| | Voters. |
|---------------------------------------------|---------|
| Oxford (2) | 15,770 |
| Cambridge (2) | 23,978 |
| London (1) | 15,558 |
| Scottish Universities (3) | 43,192 |
| Combined English Universities (2) | 13,775 |
| University of Wales (1) | 3,623 |
| Queen's University, Belfast (1) | 3,324 |
| | 119,220 |

In place, therefore, of five constituencies (if Trinity College, Dublin, be omitted) with 43,143 voters returning seven members, there are seven constituencies with 119,220 voters returning twelve members. Nor is the process of expansion nearly completed, especially at Oxford and Cambridge. Although these two constituencies have more than doubled in numbers since the franchise was altered in 1918, they will undoubtedly double themselves again in the next twenty years, as the existing regulations, which provide for the automatic registration of all British subjects who take degrees, gradually equate the number of voters with the number of living graduates of the university. It may, therefore, be predicted that if the representation of the universities in Parliament is left undisturbed for a generation, the twelve members will be representing a body of between 200,000 and 250,000 graduates.

When account is taken of the very large numbers of men and women students, from all grades of society, including those who began their education in our primary schools, who now make their way to Oxford and Cambridge, and of the still larger numbers who proceed to the Scottish and the modern English universities; of the pronounced success which has attended the efforts of the universities to provide a training suitable to students entering on professional, commercial, or industrial careers; and of the fact that the general widening of the educational ladder has not yet had time to bear its full fruit, it is claimed that graduates of the universities of Great Britain, as a whole, represent to-day, even more fully than they did half a century ago, that section of the community which exercises the greatest influence on the formation of public opinion.

Of 1263 men students matriculated at Oxford during the academical year 1928-29, less than half came from the English public schools. Of the remainder, 179 were students from overseas, and 445 were from secondary schools which do not rank as public schools. Of these 445, no fewer than 223 had started their education in public elementary schools, which means that at any time there are about 750 elementary schoolboys in residence at Oxford, and the proportion to the whole would be at least as large amongst the women students. The evidence also shows that more than 45 per cent of Oxford undergraduates are in receipt of financial assistance without which their parents would be unable to give them a

university education. The figures for Cambridge are similar, and at some of the modern English universities more than two-thirds of the students began their education in the elementary schools.

Further justification for the existence of a small number of university representatives in the House of Commons is found in the special knowledge they may be expected to have of the needs of higher education and educational policy generally. The independence from government control enjoyed by the universities of the British Empire can only be maintained by very cordial co-operation between the governing bodies of the universities and the Government of the day, and in the delicate negotiations which such co-operation constantly involves, the university members play a part which is essential, although it naturally does not bulk in the public eye.

The university constituencies, by reason of their peculiar constitution, provide for the enfranchisement of a large number of men and women who would otherwise be without a vote. Since the university voter is placed on the register for life, and can vote through the post, he carries his qualification with him wherever he goes; he can exercise it although, owing to a change of residence, he may be without an ordinary vote, or unable to travel to a constituency to exercise it: if he goes abroad, he can appoint a proxy, and, with the recent extension of air mails, he can now exercise the franchise himself from a great many distant parts of the world. A careful analysis of 900 consecutive voters on the Oxford Register showed that no fewer than 75 had addresses overseas, many of them serving their country in distant parts of the Empire, which means that at Oxford alone the abolition of the University seat would disfranchise nearly 1500 overseas voters. In the Scottish universities the proportion of overseas voters is probably higher.

University and Educational Intelligence.

CAMBRIDGE.—Applications are invited for a research studentship at Emmanuel College, the maximum annual value of which will be £150 and the period of holding two years or a possible third. Preference will be given to candidates who have completed one but not more than two years of research work. Applications must be received by the Master of Emmanuel College by, at latest, June 30.

THE Air Ministry announces that five hundred aircraft apprentices, between the ages of fifteen and seventeen years, are required by the Royal Air Force for entry into the Schools of Technical Training at Halton, Bucks, and at Cranwell, near Sleaford, Lincs. They will be enlisted as the result of an Open Competition and of a Limited Competition, to be held in the near future by the Civil Service Commissioners and the Air Ministry respectively. Boys in possession of an approved first school certificate may be admitted without other educational examinations. The scheme offers a good opportunity to well-educated boys of obtaining a three-years' apprentice course of a high standard. The principal trades open to them are metal rigger, a new trade brought into existence by the introduction of the metal aeroplane, which involves training in both fitting and sheet metal work; fitter (aero engine); fitter (armourer); wireless operator-mechanic; and electrician. Full information regarding the examinations can be obtained upon application to the Secretary, Air Ministry (Aircraft Apprentices' Dept.), Gwydyr House, Whitehall, London, S.W.1.