

# SCIENCE

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DOCTORATES CONFERRED BY AMERICAN  
UNIVERSITIES.

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WE publish for the seventh year statistics in regard to the doctorates conferred by our universities. The degree of doctor of philosophy or of science was received by 281 candidates from 24 institutions. In addition to the 34 universities and colleges from which returns have been received, there may be a few cases in which the degree has been conferred legitimately by smaller institutions, but they are certainly very few. As a matter of fact, four fifths of all the degrees are conferred by seven universities. There have not during the past seven years, and probably never previously, been so many degrees conferred as in the present year. The numbers for the seven years are 234, 222, 239, 253, 216, 266 and 281. The figures fluctuate from year to year, but indicate an increase in seven years of about twenty per cent. This seems to be disappointingly small. In an article by Dr. Tombo, recently (July 15) printed in this journal, it is stated that the number of graduate students has more than doubled in the past five years, and in an article by Dr. Mayer, also printed here (July 8), it is said that the number of graduate students increased two and a half times from 1890 to 1902. It is not clear why the number who receive the advanced degree should not increase as rapidly as the number of graduate students. This is not due to a raising of the standards, as these have remained about stationary; nor is it due to lack of encouragement on the part of the universities, as fellowships and other in-

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