

SCIENCE

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DOCTORATES CONFERRED IN THE SCIENCES BY AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES IN 1921

THROUGH the generous cooperation of the registrars of the various American universities granting doctorates in the sciences, the Research Information Service of the National Research Council is able to offer the following compilation of doctorates granted during the collegiate year 1920-1921. Through this same cooperation statistics are now available for the period 1916-1919. The information for these three years has not been compiled heretofore and therefore was lacking in the tables as published last year (SCIENCE, 52, 478, 514). These figures are of value as an indication of the academic activity during the World War. As would be expected, the number of doctorates fell off as the size of the American army increased (1917, 372; 1918, 293; 1919, 180). This is a confirmation of the acknowledged fact that the scientific men of the country played an increasingly important part in the activities of the army and navy.

In 1921 there were 332 doctorates conferred in the natural sciences by 32 institutions, as compared with 323 by the same number of institutions in 1920. (The figures reported in 1920 by institutions and by subjects have been corrected in certain cases from later information). It is interesting that the figures for 1917 should be so much higher than those for any other year reported in the tables. How long will it be before those figures are again reached?

Marked changes in the order of institutions are in the shift of Minnesota from nineteenth place in 1920 to tenth place in 1921, and of George Washington from tenth place in 1920 to twenty-sixth place in 1921. Comparisons of this kind are of uncertain significance because the number of degrees granted by an institution during any collegiate year depends upon many factors.

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