

XI

GROWING DEMAND FOR SPECIAL-
IZED TRAINING BRINGS
500,000 ENROLLMENT
TO COLLEGES

College attendance in the United States passed the 500,000 mark during the recent school year, an increase of 25 per cent. over the record, George F. Zook, specialist in higher education, with the Bureau of Education, announced. He expects the increase to continue.

The growth of college attendance is far out of proportion to the increase in population. The present figures, based on an estimate of 105,000,000 population for 1920, show that approximately one out of every 200 persons in the country is a college student. Ten years ago college attendance was less than half as great.

One feature of the increase has been the larger proportion of women taking college training.

Zook gave results of an investigation just completed, showing that college attendance jumped 25 per cent. in the first school year following the war over the highest prewar totals. In 1916-17 the total number of students in 576 colleges in the country slightly exceeded 400,000, Zook said. During the war the attendance fell slightly.

The Bureau of Education has received figures of 1919-20 attendance from 250 colleges totaling 186,864. The same schools had 149,533 students in the record year just before the war, showing the gain on which the general 25 per cent. increase estimate is based.

The great proportion of the gain last year was in the freshman class. A repetition of this is expected by Zook, who pointed out that more than 250,000 students are graduating from high schools each year.

The growing demand of our modern economic life for persons with specialized training is given as an important reason for the rapidly growing attendance by Zook.

"It often seems to professors that an increasing proportion of students are coming to college for no particular purpose except

that it is regarded as the fashionable thing to do," Zook said. "On the other hand, there is every evidence that the number of young men and women who realize that they need a thorough and extended education before they may rise to coveted positions is growing tremendously.

"In a vague and indefinite way they appreciate the increasing complexity of our modern economic life, with its growing demand for persons with specialized training in every branch of activity.

"In practical affairs the demand is quite definite and the character of the work is concrete, both of which appeal to the imagination of young men and women entering institutions of higher learning. There seems every reason, therefore, why we may assume that the present tremendous increase in the number of students seeking the advantages of higher education will continue unabated for many years to come."

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

STERLING ANDRUS LEONARD, until recently a teacher of English in the Lincoln School, Teachers College, New York, will give courses this fall at the University of Wisconsin in the Teaching of English. He will also be head of the English department of the University of Wisconsin High School (training school).

KATHERINE M. ANTHONY is the director of the training school.

CLARE HARNSBERGER is a graduate of the Class of 1920. She was awarded the Dingle-dine Prize for the best essay submitted by this year's graduating class.

JOHN W. WAYLAND is the head of the department of history and social sciences.

ETHEL SPILMAN is an instructor in geography and a teacher in the training school.

DICK BOWMAN is the acting librarian for the Summer Session of 1920.