

## PART II

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### UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

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83. Admissions of undergraduates are made by individual colleges, and the University has not accumulated detailed records about them. But each undergraduate must matriculate in his first term to become a member of the University, and must complete a matriculation form. The analyses given below of those entering before October 1965 are based on the matriculation forms.<sup>1</sup>

84. In 1961 the Universities Central Council on Admissions (UCCA) was set up to co-ordinate admissions to universities nationally. Oxford co-operated with the scheme which was subsequently implemented, and for admissions for 1966-7 has joined the scheme. Partly as a result of the establishment of UCCA, the men's colleges set up the Oxford Colleges Admissions Office in 1962 to facilitate co-operation with UCCA and reorganize admissions to Oxford. This has led to much more complete information about Oxford admissions of men becoming available, and many of the recent data presented below have been supplied by the Admissions Office.

85. Both the pattern of admissions and current procedures are different for men and for women. Accordingly, most of the analyses are given separately for men and women.

#### MATRICULATIONS 1938-9 TO 1964-5<sup>2</sup>

86. Matriculations have been analysed where possible by the type of school or university previously attended; whether a holder of a college entrance award (scholarship or exhibition), or a commoner; home address;<sup>3</sup> and the proposed course of study. Only matriculants intending to read for a first degree have been included.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Except for Table 43 on entrants in October 1964.

<sup>2</sup> In some of the tables, figures for 1965-6 are included. They are not completely comparable with those for earlier years, being derived from the admissions competition. See below, paras. 103 ff.

<sup>3</sup> 'Home address' is the term used, but the address recorded on matriculation forms has been the address of parent or guardian.

<sup>4</sup> Postgraduates who come to Oxford from another university and members of the staff who do not have an Oxford degree also matriculate.

87. Schools are classified as independent, direct-grant, or maintained according to their status in the year in question.<sup>1</sup> Independent schools are subdivided into independent boarding and independent day schools according to whether the majority of pupils were boarders or day pupils. In some tables a further distinction is made for independent and direct-grant schools according to whether or not the headmaster was a member of the Headmasters' Conference. Overseas schools, schools which did not fit any of the categories or which could not be identified, and other institutions such as technical colleges or Ruskin College, or private tuition are included in a category termed 'Other schools'. In some tables this is divided into 'Other U.K. schools' and 'Overseas schools'.

88. Home address has been grouped in eight regions; seven for United Kingdom, and one for overseas.<sup>2</sup>

#### Award holders

89. Table 30 shows undergraduate entrants classified by status as award holders or commoners entering from schools, or as graduates of U.K. or other universities.

90. The proportion of award holders is higher among men than among women. Among men it has increased from under one-quarter in 1923-4 to over one-third in 1964-5. Among women it has remained a little under one-fifth. The proportion of overseas graduates is also higher for men than for women, but is lower in 1958-9 and 1964-5 than earlier.

<sup>1</sup> Direct-grant schools include grant-aided schools in Scotland. Maintained schools include voluntary aided, voluntary controlled and transitionally assisted schools. The basic sources of information for classifying schools were the annual *Register of Members* of the Incorporated Association of Head Masters for the appropriate years. The contemporary edition of *Whitaker's Almanack* was used to obtain the members of the Headmasters' Conference. Some schools were not listed in the IAHM *Register of Members* and where adequate contemporary information was lacking the information available at the closest point in time to the date concerned was used. Some changes in classification of schools took place. For example, there were about seventeen schools not in the Headmasters' Conference in 1948 which were members in 1963 and nineteen which were members in 1948 but not in 1963. For 1964-5 and 1965-6, information from the Department of Education and Science and the *Education Authorities Directory and Annual 1964* were also used.

<sup>2</sup> The regions in the U.K. are defined as follows:

##### *Scotland*

*North:* Cumberland, Durham, Isle of Man, Lancashire, Northumberland, Westmorland, Yorkshire.

*Midlands:* Cheshire, Derbyshire, Herefordshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Rutland, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire.

*Wales:* Wales and Monmouthshire.

*South-east:* Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Channel Islands, Essex, Hampshire and Isle of Wight, Hertfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Kent, London, Middlesex, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Suffolk, Surrey, Sussex.

*South-west:* Cornwall, Devonshire, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire.

*Northern Ireland*

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**Table 30.** Status as award holder, commoner, or graduate by sex. Entrants to read for first degrees

| OXFORD        |                    | PERCENTAGE |        |        |        |
|---------------|--------------------|------------|--------|--------|--------|
|               |                    | 1938-9     | 1948-9 | 1958-9 | 1964-5 |
| Men           | Award holders      | 23.7       | 16.9   | 31.2   | 34.3   |
|               | Commoners          | 62.3       | 63.2   | 62.9   | 57.8   |
|               | U.K. universities  | 4.0        | 6.1    | 0.8    | 1.4    |
|               | Other universities | 10.0       | 13.8   | 5.1    | 6.5    |
|               | All men            | 100.0      | 100.0  | 100.0  | 100.0  |
| <i>Number</i> |                    | 1,436      | 1,847  | 2,185  | 2,051  |
| Women         | Award holders      | 17.7       | 19.7   | 20.0   | 17.8   |
|               | Commoners          | 73.8       | 71.7   | 75.6   | 76.9   |
|               | U.K. universities  | 3.2        | 4.0    | 1.2    | 1.7    |
|               | Other universities | 5.3        | 4.6    | 3.2    | 3.6    |
|               | All women          | 100.0      | 100.0  | 100.0  | 100.0  |
| <i>Number</i> |                    | 282        | 325    | 340    | 411    |
| Men and women | Award holders      | 22.7       | 17.3   | 29.7   | 31.6   |
|               | Commoners          | 64.2       | 64.5   | 64.6   | 61.0   |
|               | U.K. universities  | 3.8        | 5.8    | 0.9    | 1.5    |
|               | Other universities | 9.3        | 12.4   | 4.8    | 6.0    |
|               | All entrants       | 100.0      | 100.0  | 100.0  | 100.0  |
| <i>Number</i> |                    | 1,718      | 2,172  | 2,525  | 2,462  |

SOURCE: Matriculation forms.

NOTE: The figures for award holders and commoners exclude those entrants who held a degree at time of matriculation. The latter are shown separately under U.K. universities and other universities. It is unlikely that many graduate entrants held awards, but accurate figures cannot be obtained as some holders of Rhodes Scholarships, etc., have been recorded as award holders on matriculation forms.

### Type of school

91. Entrants from schools are classified by type of school in Tables 31 and 32. For both men and women the proportion from independent schools has fallen over time, while that from both direct-grant and maintained schools has increased. An exception to the trend is 1948-9 for men, when the proportion from maintained schools was just higher than in 1964-5, and that from independent schools was correspondingly lower. This is very likely a reflection of the special circumstances of the time when there were many ex-servicemen in residence.

**Table 31.** *Type of school of entrants to read for first degrees. Men non-graduates*

| Type of school           | OXFORD     |        |        |        |        |
|--------------------------|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                          | PERCENTAGE |        |        |        |        |
|                          | 1938-9     | 1948-9 | 1958-9 | 1964-5 | 1965-6 |
| HMC independent boarding | 55.2       | 39.1   | 42.2   | 32.7   | 31.1   |
| Independent boarding     | 2.3        | 1.3    | 1.1    | 1.6    | 1.6    |
| HMC independent day      | 4.0        | 4.5    | 8.3    | 9.5    | 8.1    |
| Independent day          | 0.6        | 0.5    | 0.8    | 1.2    | 0.6    |
| All independent          | 62.0       | 45.2   | 52.4   | 45.0   | 41.3   |
| HMC direct-grant         | 10.9       | 12.1   | 14.0   | 14.8   | 14.9   |
| Direct-grant             | 1.6        | 2.8    | 1.5    | 2.3    | 2.2    |
| All direct-grant         | 12.6       | 14.9   | 15.4   | 17.2   | 17.1   |
| Maintained               | 19.2       | 35.2   | 30.1   | 34.3   | 40.2   |
| Other U.K. schools       | 4.5        | 1.0    | 0.7    | 2.0    | 0.6    |
| Overseas schools         | 1.7        | 3.6    | 1.3    | 1.5    | 0.8    |
| All schools              | 100.0      | 100.0  | 100.0  | 100.0  | 100.0  |
| <i>Number</i>            | 1,235      | 1,480  | 2,056  | 1,889  | 1,912  |

SOURCE: Matriculation forms except for 1965-6.  
Admissions Office for 1965-6.

NOTE: The figures for 1965-6 are not fully comparable with those for earlier years as they are based on places offered and accepted, not on actual matriculations.

**Table 32.** *Type of school of entrants to read for first degrees. Women non-graduates*

| Type of school       | OXFORD     |        |        |        |        |
|----------------------|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                      | PERCENTAGE |        |        |        |        |
|                      | 1938-9     | 1948-9 | 1958-9 | 1964-5 | 1965-6 |
| Independent boarding | 36.0       | 31.6   | 21.5   | 19.8   | 19.2   |
| Independent day      | 14.7       | 14.1   | 15.7   | 8.5    | 12.2   |
| Direct-grant         | 13.2       | 16.5   | 24.3   | 28.8   | 23.9   |
| Maintained           | 32.6       | 31.3   | 36.6   | 38.3   | 42.7   |
| Other schools        | 3.5        | 6.4    | 1.8    | 4.6    | 2.0    |
| All independent      | 50.8       | 45.8   | 37.2   | 28.3   | 31.4   |
| All schools          | 100.0      | 100.0  | 100.0  | 100.0  | 100.0  |
| <i>Number</i>        | 258        | 297    | 325    | 389    | 443    |

SOURCE: Matriculation forms except for 1965-6.  
Women's colleges for 1965-6.

NOTE: See note to Table 31.

92. The proportion of women from maintained schools is higher than for men, but the difference has been growing smaller in recent years. The proportion is now a little over 40 per cent. for each sex. The proportion of women from direct-grant schools is also higher but has been growing faster than for men.

93. Among men from independent schools, the great majority are from HMC schools.<sup>1</sup>

94. Independent schools are divided into boarding and day schools since a number of independent day schools have a proportion of places which are paid for by local authorities, and have strong similarities with direct-grant schools. The proportion of men from independent day schools has been increasing, at least up to 1964-5, while that from independent boarding schools has been falling. The proportion of women from independent boarding schools has also fallen, and so has that from day schools since 1958-9.

**Table 33.**  *Holders of entrance awards as percentage of all entrants to read for first degrees by type of school. Men non-graduates*

| OXFORD               | PERCENTAGE |        |        |        |        |
|----------------------|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                      | 1938-9     | 1948-9 | 1958-9 | 1964-5 | 1965-6 |
| Type of school       |            |        |        |        |        |
| Independent boarding | 20.7       | 19.8   | 30.8   | 34.1   | 35.9   |
| Independent day      | 42.9       | 24.7   | 41.7   | 41.3   | 49.1   |
| Direct-grant         | 46.5       | 29.5   | 42.3   | 45.7   | 46.5   |
| Maintained           | 40.9       | 21.3   | 31.3   | 38.1   | 41.4   |
| Other                | —          | —      | 4.8    | 7.5    | 25.9   |
| All schools          | 27.5       | 21.1   | 33.2   | 37.3   | 40.9   |

SOURCE: Matriculation forms except for 1965-6.  
Admissions Office for 1965-6.

NOTE: See note to Table 31.

95. Holders of college entrance awards (open and closed scholars and exhibitioners) now account for 41 per cent. of men and 19 per cent. of women entering from schools (Tables 33 and 34). The proportion of women award holders has not changed appreciably since 1938-9, but that of men has increased from 28 per cent. in 1938-9. Throughout the period the proportion of award holders from independent boarding schools has been lower, for both men and women, than for other types of school, but the contrast was greatest in 1938-9. The highest proportions of award holders are for independent day and direct-grant schools.

<sup>1</sup> i.e. schools whose headmaster is a member of the Headmasters' Conference.

**Table 34.**  *Holders of entrance awards as percentage of all entrants to read for first degrees by type of school. Women non-graduates*

| OXFORD               |        | PERCENTAGE |        |        |        |  |
|----------------------|--------|------------|--------|--------|--------|--|
| Type of school       | 1938-9 | 1948-9     | 1958-9 | 1964-5 | 1965-6 |  |
| Independent boarding | 9.7    | 22.3       | 18.6   | 15.6   | 9.4    |  |
| Independent day      | 21.1   | 26.2       | 19.6   | 24.2   | 20.4   |  |
| Direct-grant         | 29.4   | 20.4       | 27.8   | 22.3   | 31.1   |  |
| Maintained           | 26.2   | 19.4       | 19.3   | 17.4   | 17.5   |  |
| Other                | 11.1   | 21.1       | —      | 11.1   | 11.1   |  |
| All schools          | 19.4   | 21.5       | 20.9   | 18.8   | 19.4   |  |

SOURCE: Matriculation forms except for 1965-6.  
Women's colleges for 1965-6.

NOTE: See note to Table 31.

### Home address

96. Table 35 shows the distribution of entrants according to home address. There is no systematic difference between men and women, except that the proportion of men from the south-east has risen, while that for women has been fairly steady. The proportion of entrants drawn from the north and midlands has increased over the period, while that from overseas has fallen.

### Analyses by subject group

97. Tables 36 and 37 show distributions by type of school within subject groups. Among men, entrants from independent boarding schools are most strongly represented in social studies, and least in science, while the opposite holds for entrants from maintained schools. Between the two dates there has been a strong swing from arts to science. There has thus been an increased representation of entrants from maintained schools in the arts and science (but not social studies) subjects, and a swing to science in which the proportion from maintained schools is above average.

98. For women also, entrants from independent boarding schools are more strongly represented, and those from maintained schools are less strongly represented in social studies, but there is no significant difference for either group between arts and science. However, the proportion in social studies from maintained schools increased sharply between 1958-9 and 1964-5.

99. Table 30 shows that among men the proportion of graduates reading first degrees was high in 1938-9 (14 per cent.) and in 1948-9 (20 per cent.),

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**Table 35.** Home address of entrants to read for first degrees by sex. Non-graduates

| OXFORD               | PERCENTAGE   |              |              |              |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                      | 1938-9       | 1948-9       | 1958-9       | 1964-5       |
| <b>MEN</b>           |              |              |              |              |
| Scotland             | 2.5          | 2.9          | 1.8          | 1.3          |
| North                | 15.1         | 14.9         | 15.1         | 17.2         |
| Midlands             | 13.0         | 13.2         | 14.7         | 14.8         |
| Wales                | 4.6          | 3.9          | 3.1          | 2.5          |
| South-east           | 48.1         | 50.1         | 52.0         | 51.5         |
| South-west           | 8.7          | 9.7          | 9.2          | 8.0          |
| Northern Ireland     | 0.1          | 0.3          | 0.2          | 0.6          |
| Overseas             | 7.9          | 4.9          | 3.7          | 4.1          |
| <b>All men</b>       | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| <i>Number</i>        | <i>1,235</i> | <i>1,480</i> | <i>2,056</i> | <i>1,889</i> |
| <b>WOMEN</b>         |              |              |              |              |
| Scotland             | 1.6          | 2.0          | 1.8          | 1.5          |
| North                | 14.7         | 13.8         | 13.5         | 18.0         |
| Midlands             | 12.4         | 10.8         | 15.4         | 15.2         |
| Wales                | 3.5          | 3.0          | 3.4          | 2.1          |
| South-east           | 51.2         | 53.9         | 50.5         | 50.4         |
| South-west           | 11.2         | 10.1         | 9.5          | 8.2          |
| Northern Ireland     | —            | —            | 1.8          | 1.5          |
| Overseas             | 5.4          | 6.4          | 4.0          | 3.1          |
| <b>All women</b>     | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| <i>Number</i>        | <i>258</i>   | <i>297</i>   | <i>325</i>   | <i>389</i>   |
| <b>MEN AND WOMEN</b> |              |              |              |              |
| Scotland             | 2.3          | 2.8          | 1.8          | 1.3          |
| North                | 15.0         | 14.7         | 14.9         | 17.3         |
| Midlands             | 12.9         | 12.8         | 14.8         | 14.9         |
| Wales                | 4.4          | 3.8          | 3.1          | 2.5          |
| South-east           | 48.6         | 50.8         | 51.8         | 51.3         |
| South-west           | 9.2          | 9.7          | 9.3          | 8.0          |
| Northern Ireland     | 0.1          | 0.3          | 0.5          | 0.7          |
| Overseas             | 7.4          | 5.2          | 3.7          | 3.9          |
| <b>All entrants</b>  | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> |
| <i>Number</i>        | <i>1,493</i> | <i>1,777</i> | <i>2,381</i> | <i>2,278</i> |

SOURCE: Matriculation forms.

**Table 36.** *Type of school of entrants to read for first degrees by subject group. Men non-graduates*

| OXFORD                           |        | PERCENTAGE |             |
|----------------------------------|--------|------------|-------------|
| Subject group and type of school | 1958-9 | 1964-5     |             |
| <b>ARTS</b>                      |        |            |             |
| Independent boarding             | 40.4   | 35.0       |             |
| Independent day                  | 9.6    | 10.4       |             |
| Direct-grant                     | 16.6   | 16.4       |             |
| Maintained                       | 31.8   | 35.1       |             |
| Other schools                    | 1.7    | 3.1        |             |
| All schools                      | 100.0  | 52.8       | 100.0 43.1  |
| <i>Number</i>                    | 1,086  | 815        |             |
| <b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>            |        |            |             |
| Independent boarding             | 57.8   | 46.3       |             |
| Independent day                  | 7.5    | 11.7       |             |
| Direct-grant                     | 9.4    | 12.7       |             |
| Maintained                       | 21.5   | 21.6       |             |
| Other schools                    | 3.9    | 7.7        |             |
| All schools                      | 100.0  | 21.3       | 100.0 21.3  |
| <i>Number</i>                    | 438    | 402        |             |
| <b>SCIENCE</b>                   |        |            |             |
| Independent boarding             | 37.4   | 26.3       |             |
| Independent day                  | 9.4    | 10.2       |             |
| Direct-grant                     | 18.0   | 20.7       |             |
| Maintained                       | 33.8   | 41.1       |             |
| Other schools                    | 1.3    | 1.6        |             |
| All schools                      | 100.0  | 25.9       | 100.0 35.6  |
| <i>Number</i>                    | 532    | 672        |             |
| <b>ALL SUBJECTS</b>              |        |            |             |
| Independent boarding             | 43.3   | 34.3       |             |
| Independent day                  | 9.1    | 10.6       |             |
| Direct-grant                     | 15.4   | 17.2       |             |
| Maintained                       | 30.1   | 34.3       |             |
| Other schools                    | 2.0    | 3.5        |             |
| All schools                      | 100.0  | 100.0      | 100.0 100.0 |
| <i>Total number</i>              | 2,056  |            | 1,889       |

SOURCE: Matriculation forms.

**Table 37.** *Type of school of entrants to read for first degrees by subject group. Women non-graduates*

| OXFORD                           |        | PERCENTAGE |        |       |  |
|----------------------------------|--------|------------|--------|-------|--|
| Subject group and type of school | 1958-9 |            | 1964-5 |       |  |
| <b>ARTS</b>                      |        |            |        |       |  |
| Independent boarding             | 21.6   |            | 17.2   |       |  |
| Independent day                  | 15.5   |            | 8.8    |       |  |
| Direct-grant                     | 22.5   |            | 31.9   |       |  |
| Maintained                       | 39.4   |            | 36.6   |       |  |
| Other schools                    | 0.9    |            | 5.5    |       |  |
| All schools                      | 100.0  | 65.5       | 100.0  | 61.2  |  |
| <i>Number</i>                    | 213    |            | 238    |       |  |
| <b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>            |        |            |        |       |  |
| Independent boarding             | 24.3   |            | 32.6   |       |  |
| Independent day                  | 24.3   |            | 8.7    |       |  |
| Direct-grant                     | 21.6   |            | 15.2   |       |  |
| Maintained                       | 21.6   |            | 32.6   |       |  |
| Other schools                    | 8.1    |            | 10.9   |       |  |
| All schools                      | 100.0  | 11.4       | 100.0  | 11.8  |  |
| <i>Number</i>                    | 37     |            | 46     |       |  |
| <b>SCIENCE</b>                   |        |            |        |       |  |
| Independent boarding             | 20.0   |            | 20.0   |       |  |
| Independent day                  | 12.0   |            | 7.6    |       |  |
| Direct-grant                     | 30.7   |            | 27.6   |       |  |
| Maintained                       | 36.0   |            | 44.8   |       |  |
| Other schools                    | 1.3    |            | —      |       |  |
| All schools                      | 100.0  | 23.1       | 100.0  | 27.0  |  |
| <i>Number</i>                    | 75     |            | 105    |       |  |
| <b>ALL SUBJECTS</b>              |        |            |        |       |  |
| Independent boarding             | 21.5   |            | 19.8   |       |  |
| Independent day                  | 15.7   |            | 8.5    |       |  |
| Direct-grant                     | 24.3   |            | 28.8   |       |  |
| Maintained                       | 36.6   |            | 38.3   |       |  |
| Other schools                    | 1.8    |            | 4.6    |       |  |
| All schools                      | 100.0  | 100.0      | 100.0  | 100.0 |  |
| <i>Total number</i>              | 325    |            | 389    |       |  |

SOURCE: Matriculation forms.

was much lower in 1958-9 (6 per cent.), but rose to 8 per cent. in 1964-5. Table 38 gives a breakdown by subject group for the two last periods. The increase has occurred in arts and social studies, the latter having the heaviest concentration, almost all being foreign graduates (many American) most of whom probably read PPE.

**Table 38.** *Graduates as percentage of all entrants to read for first degrees by subject group. Men*

| OXFORD                | PERCENTAGE           |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
|                       | U.K.<br>universities | Other<br>universities | All<br>universities |
| <b>ARTS</b>           |                      |                       |                     |
| 1958-9                | 1.1                  | 3.4                   | 4.6                 |
| 1964-5                | 2.7                  | 5.6                   | 8.3                 |
| <b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b> |                      |                       |                     |
| 1958-9                | 0.6                  | 10.9                  | 11.5                |
| 1964-5                | 0.2                  | 13.9                  | 14.1                |
| <b>SCIENCE</b>        |                      |                       |                     |
| 1958-9                | 0.4                  | 3.3                   | 3.6                 |
| 1964-5                | 0.6                  | 2.6                   | 3.2                 |
| <b>ALL SUBJECTS</b>   |                      |                       |                     |
| 1958-9                | 0.8                  | 5.1                   | 5.9                 |
| 1964-5                | 1.4                  | 6.5                   | 7.9                 |

SOURCE: Matriculation forms.

100. Among women the over-all proportion of graduates is smaller (Table 39), and a larger proportion of them come from U.K. universities. Otherwise, the pattern is similar to that for men. (The number of women graduates reading first degrees is small, and the proportions within subject groups are likely to fluctuate widely from year to year.)

101. Table 40 shows that for men in recent years the proportion of award holders was lower in social studies than in arts and science. This need not reflect a lower quality of entry in social studies since a large proportion of the men's awards are tied to particular subjects. For women the figures are liable to greater erratic fluctuations because of the small numbers involved, and because awards for women are not usually tied to subjects in the same way as those for men, but it appears that the proportion of award holders was highest in arts.

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**Table 39.** *Graduates as percentage of all entrants to read for first degrees by subject group. Women*

| OXFORD                | PERCENTAGE           |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
|                       | U.K.<br>universities | Other<br>universities | All<br>universities |
| <b>ARTS</b>           |                      |                       |                     |
| 1958-9                | 0.5                  | 2.7                   | 3.2                 |
| 1964-5                | 1.6                  | 4.0                   | 5.6                 |
| <b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b> |                      |                       |                     |
| 1958-9                | 4.8                  | 7.1                   | 11.9                |
| 1964-5                | 3.8                  | 7.7                   | 11.5                |
| <b>SCIENCE</b>        |                      |                       |                     |
| 1958-9                | 1.3                  | 2.6                   | 3.8                 |
| 1964-5                | 0.9                  | 0.9                   | 1.9                 |
| <b>ALL SUBJECTS</b>   |                      |                       |                     |
| 1958-9                | 1.2                  | 3.2                   | 4.4                 |
| 1964-5                | 1.7                  | 3.6                   | 5.4                 |

SOURCE: Matriculation forms.

**Table 40.** *Award holders as percentage of all entrants to read for first degrees by subject group and sex. Non-graduates*

| OXFORD       | PERCENTAGE |                   |         |                 |
|--------------|------------|-------------------|---------|-----------------|
|              | Arts       | Social<br>studies | Science | All<br>subjects |
| <b>MEN</b>   |            |                   |         |                 |
| 1958-9       | 37.7       | 17.1              | 37.2    | 33.2            |
| 1964-5       | 38.0       | 25.6              | 43.3    | 37.3            |
| <b>WOMEN</b> |            |                   |         |                 |
| 1958-9       | 23.5       | 10.8              | 18.7    | 20.9            |
| 1964-5       | 21.4       | 19.6              | 12.4    | 18.8            |

SOURCE: Matriculation forms.

**Table 41.** *Type of school by home address. Men non-graduate entrants to read for first degrees*

| OXFORD           |                      |                 |              |            |               |             | PERCENTAGE |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|---------------|-------------|------------|
| Home address     | Independent boarding | Independent day | Direct-grant | Maintained | Other schools | All schools | Number     |
| <i>1958-9</i>    |                      |                 |              |            |               |             |            |
| Scotland         | 86                   | 11              | —            | 3          | —             | 100         | 37         |
| North            | 22                   | 2               | 34           | 40         | 1             | 100         | 311        |
| Midlands         | 33                   | 9               | 23           | 35         | —             | 100         | 303        |
| Wales            | 47                   | —               | 8            | 45         | —             | 100         | 64         |
| South-east       | 48                   | 14              | 8            | 29         | 1             | 100         | 1,070      |
| South-west       | 53                   | 3               | 22           | 22         | 1             | 100         | 190        |
| Northern Ireland | 100                  | —               | —            | —          | —             | 100         | 5          |
| Overseas         | 61                   | 1               | 4            | 3          | 32            | 100         | 76         |
| All regions      | 43                   | 9               | 15           | 30         | 2             | 100         | 2,056      |
| <i>1964-5</i>    |                      |                 |              |            |               |             |            |
| Scotland         | 42                   | 29              | 8            | 13         | 8             | 100         | 24         |
| North            | 16                   | 2               | 32           | 47         | 2             | 100         | 325        |
| Midlands         | 19                   | 7               | 29           | 43         | 3             | 100         | 280        |
| Wales            | 31                   | —               | 10           | 50         | 8             | 100         | 48         |
| South-east       | 41                   | 16              | 9            | 32         | 1             | 100         | 973        |
| South-west       | 51                   | 2               | 23           | 23         | 2             | 100         | 151        |
| Northern Ireland | 18                   | —               | 45           | 27         | 9             | 100         | 11         |
| Overseas         | 52                   | 4               | 4            | 3          | 38            | 100         | 77         |
| All regions      | 34                   | 11              | 17           | 34         | 4             | 100         | 1,889      |

SOURCE: Matriculation forms.

### Home address and type of school

102. Distributions showing type of school within regions are given in Tables 41 and 42. They are heavily dependent on the geographical distribution of independent and direct-grant schools. The region is that in which an individual's home address lies, not that of his school. In a number of cases, particularly for women, the numbers involved are small and firm conclusions cannot be drawn. However, it appears that the proportion of entrants from independent boarding and day schools is above average for the south-east, the south-west (boarding schools only), and probably Scotland. The proportion from direct-grant schools is above average for the north, the midlands, and the south-west (but not for women). The proportion from direct-grant schools in the south-east is low for men, but about average for women. The proportion from maintained schools is above average for the north, the midlands, and Wales.

**Table 42.** *Type of school by home address. Women non-graduate entrants to read for first degrees*

| Home address     | OXFORD               |                 |              |            |               |             | PERCENTAGE |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|---------------|-------------|------------|
|                  | Independent boarding | Independent day | Direct-grant | Maintained | Other schools | All schools | Number     |
| <i>1958-9</i>    |                      |                 |              |            |               |             |            |
| Scotland         | 33                   | 50              | 17           | —          | —             | 100         | 6          |
| North            | 16                   | 2               | 34           | 45         | 2             | 100         | 44         |
| Midlands         | 10                   | 4               | 44           | 42         | —             | 100         | 50         |
| Wales            | 9                    | 9               | 9            | 73         | —             | 100         | 11         |
| South-east       | 25                   | 24              | 19           | 32         | —             | 100         | 164        |
| South-west       | 26                   | 6               | 19           | 45         | 3             | 100         | 31         |
| Northern Ireland | 50                   | —               | 33           | 17         | —             | 100         | 6          |
| Overseas         | 23                   | 23              | 8            | 15         | 31            | 100         | 13         |
| All regions      | 22                   | 16              | 24           | 37         | 2             | 100         | 325        |
| <i>1964-5</i>    |                      |                 |              |            |               |             |            |
| Scotland         | 67                   | —               | 33           | —          | —             | 100         | 6          |
| North            | 6                    | 7               | 43           | 41         | 3             | 100         | 70         |
| Midlands         | 17                   | 5               | 31           | 44         | 3             | 100         | 59         |
| Wales            | 25                   | —               | 13           | 63         | —             | 100         | 8          |
| South-east       | 17                   | 11              | 30           | 38         | 3             | 100         | 196        |
| South-west       | 53                   | 9               | 3            | 25         | 9             | 100         | 32         |
| Northern Ireland | 17                   | —               | —            | 83         | —             | 100         | 6          |
| Overseas         | 42                   | —               | 8            | 8          | 42            | 100         | 12         |
| All regions      | 20                   | 8               | 29           | 38         | 5             | 100         | 389        |

SOURCE: Matriculation forms.

## THE ADMISSIONS COMPETITIONS FOR ENTRY IN 1965-6

103. The Oxford Colleges Admissions Office began operating for the competition in December 1963 for entry to the men's colleges in October 1964. It serves primarily as a clearing house, receiving applications, reproducing and distributing them to colleges, and keeping colleges informed on the 'state of play' on each candidate. In its first year it did not handle all applications and the arrangements *vis-à-vis* Cambridge were different from those in the following year. The tables given below are based on the December 1964 competition for entry in October 1965, except for Table 43 which gives some details of the 1964-5 entry for comparative purposes.

104. The women's colleges do not use the Admissions Office, and details of their competition for entry in 1965-6 were supplied by the individual colleges.

**Men**

105. Table 43 shows the distribution of applications and admissions, and gives the acceptance rates by type of school for the December 1963 competition for entry in October 1964. The distribution of admissions is close to that based on matriculations (after 'other schools' are removed) except for the division between independent boarding and day schools. Some schools may have been classified differently in the analysis of matriculation forms. The table shows that the distribution of applications and admissions were different to the extent that the acceptance rate for independent boarding schools was below the average, and that for independent day schools was above average.

106. In the December 1963 competition, candidates could apply separately to Oxford and to Cambridge. The large number of withdrawals is a reflection of this. In the following year, candidates could make only one application in which Oxford and Cambridge were listed in order of preference, and the application was sent to the university of first choice. The papers of candidates unsuccessful at their university of first choice were then considered by the other university; such candidates for Oxford are termed the 'Cambridge pool', while applications from first choice candidates are termed 'central applications'.

107. The remainder of this survey covers all applications and admissions of non-graduates in the December 1964 competition. Applications from graduates, and from most mature students, are not included. There were 4,011 central applications, of whom 1,818 were given places. In addition to the central admissions, 63 unsuccessful candidates at Cambridge were given a place, and there were 31 direct admissions to colleges under schemes which earmark places for particular schools or groups of schools.<sup>1</sup> Thus, including the Cambridge pool and direct admissions, there were 1,912 admissions. These admissions are referred to as those for entry in 1965-6, but they include 95 places for entry in October 1966. (There were similarly 109 boys offered places as a result of the previous year's competition to come up in October 1965 who are excluded from the analyses unless they reapplied for an award.)

108. In making admissions, the men's colleges operate in three groups (see Tables 45 and 46), although a common examination has been used since December 1964. In making his application a candidate lists the colleges of the group to which he applies in order of preference. He is considered by these colleges and, if unsuccessful, details of his performance are passed to the remaining colleges for consideration. This procedure applies in all

<sup>1</sup> The principal such scheme is that associated with maintained schools in the West Riding (*Written Evidence*, Part XI, p. 26). The direct admissions (unlike those referred to in para. 109 below) did not pass through the machinery of the Admissions Office.

## UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

**Table 43. Type of school of applicants and admissions. Men non-graduate candidates for admission in 1964-5 to read for first degrees**

OXFORD

| Type of school       | Applications |                | Applications excluding those withdrawing before competition |                | Admissions |                | Acceptance rate        |                        |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------|---|----------------|------------|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|                      | Number (1)   | Percentage (2) | Number (3)  | Percentage (4) | Number (5) | Percentage (6) | Col. (5) as            | Col. (5) as            |
|                      |              |                |   |                |            |                | percentage of col. (1) | percentage of col. (3) |
| Independent boarding | 2,302        | 40.4           | 2,044   | 41.4           | 678        | 37.3           | 29.5                   | 33.2                   |
| Independent day      | 345          | 6.0            | 317   | 6.4            | 148        | 8.2            | 42.9                   | 46.7                   |
| Direct-grant         | 990          | 17.4           | 846   | 17.1           | 325        | 17.9           | 32.7                   | 38.4                   |
| Maintained           | 2,065        | 36.2           | 1,726   | 35.0           | 665        | 36.6           | 32.2                   | 38.5                   |
| All schools          | 5,702        | 100.0          | 4,933   | 100.0          | 1,816      | 100.0          | 31.9                   | 36.8                   |

SOURCE: Styler, L. M., *Oxford Magazine*, 12 March 1964.

NOTES

1. The total of admissions is not the same as that shown in Table 31 as matriculating in 1964-5, since not all applications were handled by the Admissions Office, on whose information this table is based. In addition, some successful candidates may subsequently have withdrawn.
2. The classification of schools for this table was carried out independently of that for Tables 31, 44, and related tables. It is therefore possible that some schools have been classified differently in different tables; this applies particularly to the division of independent schools into boarding and day categories.

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

**Table 44. Type of school of applicants and admissions. Men non-graduate candidates for admission in 1965-6 to read for first degrees**

OXFORD

| Type of school       | Excluding Cambridge pool and direct admissions |            |            |            | Including Cambridge pool and direct admissions |            |            |            | Acceptance rate Col. (8) as percentage of col. (6) |      |
|----------------------|--|------------|------------|------------|--|------------|------------|------------|--|------|
|                      | Applications                                   |            | Admissions |            | Applications                                   |            | Admissions |            |  |      |
|                      | Number   | Percentage | Number     | Percentage | Number   | Percentage | Number     | Percentage |  |      |
| (1)                  | (2)  | (3)        | (4)        | (5)        | (6)  | (7)        | (8)        | (9)        | (10)   |      |
| Independent boarding | 1,370  | 34.2       | 600        | 33.0       | 43.8   | 1,394      | 34.0       | 624        | 32.6   | 44.8 |
| Independent day      | 340  | 8.5        | 156        | 8.6        | 45.9   | 349        | 8.5        | 105        | 8.6  | 47.3 |
| Direct-grant         | 618  | 15.4       | 314        | 17.3       | 50.8   | 631        | 15.4       | 327        | 17.1   | 51.8 |
| Maintained           | 1,576  | 39.3       | 724        | 39.8       | 45.9   | 1,621      | 39.5       | 769        | 40.2   | 47.4 |
| Overseas             | 61   | 1.5        | 16         | 0.9        | 26.2   | 61         | 1.5        | 16         | 0.8  | 26.2 |
| Other                | 46   | 1.1        | 8          | 0.4        | 17.4   | 49         | 1.2        | 11         | 0.6  | 22.4 |
| All independent      | 1,710  | 42.6       | 756        | 41.6       | 44.2   | 1,743      | 42.5       | 789        | 41.3   | 45.3 |
| All schools          | 4,011  | 100.0      | 1,818      | 100.0      | 45.3   | 4,105      | 100.0      | 1,912      | 100.0  | 46.6 |

SOURCE: Admissions Office.

NOTE: Included in this table are those taking part in the December 1964 competition, and the total of 1,912 admissions will differ from non-graduates matriculating in 1965-6 in the following ways:

1. 109 candidates in the previous year were offered places for 1965-6, and are not included in the table unless they reapplied for an award;
2. 95 candidates were offered places for 1966-7 and are included under 'admissions' in the table;
3. Some of those offered and accepting places may have subsequently withdrawn;
4. Some mature students will have been admitted by colleges subsequently to the competition and are not included in the table.

subjects except Geography, Music, and Mathematics, candidates in which may apply to any men's college. Of the 1,912 admissions:

- 1,560 or 82 per cent. were at college of first choice;
- 208 or 11 per cent. were at other colleges in the same group;
- 50 or 3 per cent. were at colleges in other groups;
- 63 or 3 per cent. were from Cambridge;
- 31 or 2 per cent. were direct college admissions.

109. Before the examination took place, 216 places were offered in addition to the 109 offered places as a result of the previous year's competition. Of the total number of 325 pre-examination admissions, 103 subsequently won awards (70 scholarships and 33 exhibitions).

#### Men : type of school

110. Table 44 gives details of applications, admissions, and acceptance rates by type of school. Compared with the previous year there was a marked fall in the number of applications (in part because of the elimination of double applications to Oxford and Cambridge). Applications from independent boarding schools fell particularly sharply. There was rather less variation in the acceptance rates between types of school than in the previous year; and the proportion of admissions from independent boarding schools was lower for 1965-6 than for 1964-5, while the proportion from maintained schools was markedly higher.<sup>1</sup>

111. Tables 45 and 46 give the type of school of applicants and admissions by colleges. Within colleges there are likely to be considerable year-to-year fluctuations in the proportion of both applicants and admissions from different types of school.

<sup>1</sup> Provisional details of the 1965 competition for admission in 1966-7 show a rise in the number of applications to 4,219 and a slight fall in total admissions to 1,850. Details by type of school are:

|                      | Central applications |            | Admissions (including Cambridge pool and direct admissions) |            |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------|---|------------|
|                      | Number               | Percentage | Number  | Percentage |
| Independent boarding | 1,297                | 30.7       | 541   | 29.2       |
| Independent day      | 387                  | 9.2        | 180   | 9.7        |
| Direct-grant         | 663                  | 15.7       | 324   | 17.5       |
| Maintained           | 1,737                | 41.1       | 776   | 41.9       |
| Other                | 135                  | 3.2        | 29  | 1.6        |
| All                  | 4,219                | 100.0      | 1,850   | 100.0      |

Compared with the previous year the number of applications from independent boarding schools is down, whereas more applied from each of the other three main types of school. The proportions of applications from each of these types of school also increased at the expense of that from independent boarding schools. Admissions of candidates from independent boarding schools fell. The proportion of admissions, compared with the previous year, was lower for independent boarding schools, and slightly higher for independent day and maintained schools.

**Table 45.** *Type of school of applicants by college. Men non-graduate candidates for admission in 1965-6 to read for first degrees*

| OXFORD                    |             |              |            |               |             | PERCENTAGE |
|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|---------------|-------------|------------|
| College and college group | Independent | Direct-grant | Maintained | Other schools | All schools | Number     |
| Corpus Christi            | 45          | 21           | 34         | 1             | 100         | 92         |
| Hertford                  | 43          | 18           | 35         | 4             | 100         | 160        |
| New College               | 60          | 10           | 30         | 1             | 100         | 179        |
| Queen's                   | 23          | 19           | 56         | 2             | 100         | 169        |
| St. Catherine's           | 27          | 16           | 56         | 2             | 100         | 257        |
| Trinity                   | 66          | 11           | 22         | —             | 100         | 122        |
| University                | 40          | 13           | 43         | 4             | 100         | 178        |
| Worcester                 | 49          | 14           | 35         | 2             | 100         | 204        |
| All Group I               | 42          | 15           | 41         | 2             | 100         | 1,361      |
| Balliol                   | 43          | 15           | 36         | 6             | 100         | 149        |
| Exeter                    | 38          | 19           | 41         | 2             | 100         | 210        |
| Keble                     | 43          | 15           | 41         | 1             | 100         | 215        |
| Pembroke                  | 35          | 17           | 48         | 1             | 100         | 204        |
| St. Edmund Hall           | 39          | 14           | 43         | 4             | 100         | 244        |
| St. John's                | 45          | 18           | 34         | 2             | 100         | 158        |
| St. Peter's               | 34          | 20           | 44         | 2             | 100         | 162        |
| Wadham                    | 29          | 12           | 58         | 1             | 100         | 184        |
| All Group II              | 38          | 16           | 43         | 2             | 100         | 1,526      |
| Brasenose                 | 49          | 20           | 29         | 3             | 100         | 189        |
| Christ Church             | 70          | 10           | 18         | 2             | 100         | 225        |
| Jesus                     | 33          | 16           | 50         | 1             | 100         | 168        |
| Lincoln                   | 38          | 12           | 48         | 3             | 100         | 155        |
| Magdalen                  | 50          | 17           | 26         | 6             | 100         | 172        |
| Merton                    | 36          | 18           | 45         | 1             | 100         | 164        |
| Oriel                     | 57          | 12           | 31         | 1             | 100         | 145        |
| All Group III             | 48          | 15           | 34         | 3             | 100         | 1,218      |
| All colleges              | 42          | 15           | 39         | 3             | 100         | 4,105      |

SOURCE: Admissions Office.

NOTES:

1. Cambridge pool and direct admissions are included.
2. See note to Table 44.
3. The college is that of first choice.

**Table 46.** *Type of school of admissions by college. Men non-graduate admissions in 1965-6 to read for first degrees*

| College and college group | OXFORD      |              |             |               |             | PERCENTAGE   |  |
|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|--|
|                           | Independent | Direct-grant | Main-tained | Other schools | All schools | Number       |  |
| Corpus Christi            | 46          | 17           | 37          | —             | 100         | 46           |  |
| Hertford                  | 40          | 16           | 44          | —             | 100         | 63           |  |
| New College               | 56          | 11           | 33          | —             | 100         | 98           |  |
| Queen's                   | 25          | 25           | 49          | —             | 100         | 67           |  |
| St. Catherine's           | 23          | 17           | 59          | 1             | 100         | 115          |  |
| Trinity                   | 62          | 12           | 27          | —             | 100         | 60           |  |
| University                | 36          | 13           | 48          | 2             | 100         | 83           |  |
| Worcester                 | 40          | 24           | 35          | 1             | 100         | 83           |  |
| <b>All Group I</b>        | <b>40</b>   | <b>17</b>    | <b>43</b>   | <b>1</b>      | <b>100</b>  | <b>615</b>   |  |
| Balliol                   | 43          | 18           | 36          | 3             | 100         | 91           |  |
| Exeter                    | 31          | 21           | 46          | 1             | 100         | 84           |  |
| Keble                     | 42          | 13           | 45          | —             | 100         | 102          |  |
| Pembroke                  | 29          | 17           | 53          | 1             | 100         | 96           |  |
| St. Edmund Hall           | 41          | 15           | 42          | 3             | 100         | 106          |  |
| St. John's                | 53          | 17           | 31          | —             | 100         | 78           |  |
| St. Peter's               | 26          | 23           | 49          | 1             | 100         | 73           |  |
| Wadham                    | 31          | 12           | 57          | —             | 100         | 83           |  |
| <b>All Group II</b>       | <b>37</b>   | <b>17</b>    | <b>45</b>   | <b>1</b>      | <b>100</b>  | <b>713</b>   |  |
| Brasenose                 | 46          | 30           | 25          | —             | 100         | 81           |  |
| Christ Church             | 71          | 7            | 21          | 1             | 100         | 123          |  |
| Jesus                     | 27          | 18           | 55          | —             | 100         | 77           |  |
| Lincoln                   | 38          | 17           | 41          | 5             | 100         | 63           |  |
| Magdalen                  | 45          | 21           | 33          | 1             | 100         | 95           |  |
| Merton                    | 32          | 21           | 47          | —             | 100         | 66           |  |
| Oriel                     | 57          | 15           | 28          | —             | 100         | 79           |  |
| <b>All Group III</b>      | <b>48</b>   | <b>18</b>    | <b>34</b>   | <b>1</b>      | <b>100</b>  | <b>584</b>   |  |
| <b>All colleges</b>       | <b>41</b>   | <b>17</b>    | <b>40</b>   | <b>1</b>      | <b>100</b>  | <b>1,912</b> |  |

SOURCE: Admissions Office.

NOTE: See Notes 1-2 to Table 45.

**Men : subject**

112. The subjects which attracted the largest number of applicants were Modern History, Jurisprudence, and PPE (Table 47). In the first of these, the acceptance rate was above average, but in the other two it was well below the average. Among the other subjects (other than the smaller subjects with less than 50 applicants), the acceptance rate was very high for Literae Humaniores and was high for Physics, while it was below average for Geography, Animal Physiology, and Engineering Science.

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**Table 47.** *Proposed Honour School of applicants and admissions. Men non-graduate candidates for admission in 1965-6 to read for first degrees*

| Honour School                | OXFORD                                    |            |   |   |            |   | NUMBER            |            |   |
|------------------------------|---|------------|---|---|------------|---|-------------------|------------|---|
|                              | Excluding Cambridge and direct admissions |            |   | Including Cambridge and direct admissions |            |   | Applica-<br>tions | Admissions | Acceptance<br>rate<br>(percen-<br>tage) |
|                              | Applica-<br>tions                         | Admissions | Acceptance<br>rate<br>(percen-<br>tage) | Applica-<br>tions                         | Admissions | Acceptance<br>rate<br>(percen-<br>tage) |                   |            |   |
| Literae Humaniores           | 235                                       | 154        | 65.5                                    | 236                                       | 155        | 65.7                                    |                   |            |   |
| Theology                     | 24  | 18         | 75.0                                    | 28  | 22         | 78.6                                    |                   |            |   |
| Modern History               | 502                                       | 252        | 50.2                                    | 507                                       | 257        | 50.7                                    |                   |            |   |
| English                      | 295                                       | 129        | 43.7                                    | 298                                       | 132        | 44.3                                    |                   |            |   |
| Modern Languages             | 446                                       | 193        | 43.3                                    | 454                                       | 201        | 44.3                                    |                   |            |   |
| Oriental Studies             | 16  | 7          | 43.8                                    | 16  | 7          | 43.8                                    |                   |            |   |
| Geography                    | 136                                       | 53         | 39.0                                    | 137                                       | 54         | 39.4                                    |                   |            |   |
| Music                        | 38  | 20         | 52.6                                    | 40  | 22         | 55.0                                    |                   |            |   |
| Jurisprudence                | 465                                       | 175        | 37.6                                    | 468                                       | 178        | 38.0                                    |                   |            |   |
| PPE                          | 472                                       | 176        | 37.3                                    | 477                                       | 181        | 37.9                                    |                   |            |   |
| Mathematics                  | 235                                       | 109        | 46.4                                    | 244                                       | 118        | 48.4                                    |                   |            |   |
| Physics                      | 214                                       | 123        | 57.5                                    | 231                                       | 140        | 60.6                                    |                   |            |   |
| Chemistry                    | 335                                       | 157        | 46.9                                    | 342                                       | 164        | 48.0                                    |                   |            |   |
| Biochemistry                 | 47  | 25         | 53.2                                    | 48  | 26         | 54.2                                    |                   |            |   |
| Animal Physiology            | 217                                       | 83         | 38.2                                    | 220                                       | 86         | 39.1                                    |                   |            |   |
| Zoology                      | 40  | 19         | 47.5                                    | 40  | 19         | 47.5                                    |                   |            |   |
| Botany                       | 8   | 6          | 75.0                                    | 9   | 7          | 77.8                                    |                   |            |   |
| Geology                      | 7   | 7          | 100.0                                   | 11  | 11         | 100.0                                   |                   |            |   |
| PPP                          | 31  | 10         | 32.3                                    | 32  | 11         | 34.4                                    |                   |            |   |
| Engineering                  | 171                                       | 71         | 41.5                                    | 187                                       | 87         | 46.5                                    |                   |            |   |
| Engineering and<br>Economics | 36  | 10         | 27.8                                    | 36  | 10         | 27.8                                    |                   |            |   |
| Metallurgy                   | 20  | 11         | 55.0                                    | 21  | 12         | 57.1                                    |                   |            |   |
| Agriculture                  | 15  | 8          | 53.3                                    | 16  | 9          | 56.3                                    |                   |            |   |
| Forestry                     | 6   | 2          | 33.0                                    | 6   | 2          | 33.0                                    |                   |            |   |
| Subject not known            | —   | —          | —                                       | 1   | 1          | 100.0                                   |                   |            |   |
| All Honour Schools           | 4,011                                     | 1,818      | 45.3                                    | 4,105                                     | 1,912      | 46.6                                    |                   |            |   |

SOURCE: Admissions Office.

NOTE: See note to Table 44.

**Table 48.** *Schools submitting candidates and gaining places. Men non-graduate candidates for admission in 1965-6 to read for first degrees*

| Type of school       | OXFORD                          |                          | NUMBER                                   |  |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
|                      | Number of schools               |                          | Col. (2) as<br>percentage<br>of col. (1) |  |
|                      | Submitting<br>candidates<br>(1) | Gaining<br>places<br>(2) |  |  |
| Independent boarding | 130                             | 92                       | 70.8                                     |  |
| Independent day      | 33                              | 32                       | 97.0                                     |  |
| Direct-grant         | 72                              | 66                       | 91.7                                     |  |
| Maintained           | 497                             | 357                      | 71.8                                     |  |
| All schools          | 732                             | 547                      | 74.7                                     |  |

SOURCE: Admissions Office.

NOTES

1. The Cambridge pool and direct admissions are included.
2. See note to Table 44.

**Men : schools submitting candidates**

113. The number of schools of each type submitting candidates and the number of places gained are given in Tables 48 and 49. 75 per cent. of all schools submitting candidates gained at least one place, but the proportion was much higher for independent day (97 per cent.) and direct-grant (92 per cent.) schools, and was 71 and 72 per cent. for independent boarding and maintained schools. But the independent boarding schools which gained places gained on average 6.8 places, more than at other types of school. The average was even higher, 7.9, at HMC independent boarding schools, and 8 such schools gained over 20 places each. The average was 5.2 for all independent day schools, 5.0 for all direct-grant schools, and 2.2 for maintained schools. Just over half the admissions came from the 87 schools gaining 6 or more places each, which comprised 37 independent boarding, 12 independent day, 19 direct-grant, and 19 maintained schools.

**Men : time in sixth form**

114. Some further analyses have been carried out on those direct applications and admissions from the four main types of school.<sup>1</sup> The Oxford entrance competition takes place in December, and most candidates enter for it in their seventh term in the sixth form.<sup>2</sup> Tables 50 and 51 show that 69 per cent. of applicants and 71 per cent. of admissions in fact did this, but there were wide variations between types of school. At independent schools a substantial proportion (28 per cent. at independent boarding schools) entered the competition after three complete years and a term in the sixth form. From maintained schools only was there a substantial proportion (28 per cent.) of applicants from the second-year sixth. Among admissions, compared with all applicants, there was a lower proportion from the second-year sixth, and a higher proportion from the fourth-year sixth, and 34 per cent. of all admissions from independent boarding schools were from the fourth-year sixth.

115. Pupils who enter the competition from the third-(or fourth-)year sixth may either be older, or have entered the sixth form early via an 'express stream'. That the latter is the preponderant explanation, not only for independent and direct-grant schools, but also for maintained schools gaining places at Oxford, is strongly suggested by Table 52. The differences in average age (for admissions) between those from second- and third-, and between those from third- and fourth-year sixth forms are each considerably less than one year. There is no substantial difference between

<sup>1</sup> Those with qualifications other than GCE A level (e.g. Scottish Higher Leaving Certificate) have been excluded.

<sup>2</sup> That is, from the 'third-year sixth'. This term is used, although candidates may leave school after the entrance examination, thus spending only two years and one term in the sixth form. The number of terms in the sixth form is defined as the number of terms spent on A level (or more advanced) work.

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

Table 49. Number of schools with a stated number of pupils accepted, by type of school. Men non-graduate admissions in 1965-6 to read for first degrees

| Number of admissions per school            | NUMBER                   |                      |                     |                 |                  |              |             |                      |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|-------------|----------------------|
|  | HMC independent boarding | Independent boarding | HMC independent day | Independent day | HMC direct-grant | Direct-grant | All schools |                      |
|  |                          |                      |                     |                 |                  |              | Maintained  | Number of admissions |
| 39   | 1                        |                      |                     |                 | 1                |              | 2           | 78                   |
| 20   | 1                        |                      |                     |                 |                  |              | 1           | 20                   |
| 28   | 1                        |                      |                     |                 |                  |              | 1           | 28                   |
| 23   | 2                        |                      |                     |                 | 1                |              | 3           | 69                   |
| 22   | 1                        |                      |                     |                 |                  |              | 1           | 22                   |
| 21   | 2                        |                      |                     |                 |                  |              | 2           | 42                   |
| 17   | 2                        |                      |                     |                 | 2                |              | 5           | 85                   |
| 16   | 1                        |                      |                     | 2               |                  | 1            | 3           | 48                   |
| 14   | 2                        |                      |                     |                 |                  |              | 4           | 42                   |
| 13   | 3                        |                      |                     |                 | 1                |              | 4           | 52                   |
| 12   | 2                        |                      |                     | 1               |                  | 1            | 2           | 24                   |
| 10   | 1                        |                      |                     | 1               |                  | 1            | 4           | 44                   |
| 9  | 6                        |                      |                     | 1               |                  | 1            | 3           | 30                   |
| 8  | 3                        |                      |                     |                 |                  |              | 7           | 63                   |
| 7  | 2                        |                      |                     |                 |                  |              | 4           | 32                   |
| 6  | 8                        |                      |                     | 4               |                  |              | 4           | 32                   |
| 5  | 3                        |                      |                     | 3               |                  |              | 5           | 112                  |
| 4  | 11                       |                      |                     | 2               |                  | 1            | 16          | 112                  |
| 3  | 10                       |                      |                     | 6               |                  | 2            | 26          | 156                  |
| 2  | 6                        |                      |                     | 0               |                  | 2            | 9           | 22                   |
| 1  | 10                       |                      |                     | 1               |                  | 4            | 28          | 110                  |
|  | 2                        |                      |                     | 2               |                  | 2            | 51          | 204                  |
|  | 3                        |                      |                     | 2               |                  | 2            | 63          | 189                  |
|  | 6                        |                      |                     | 2               |                  | 2            | 80          | 204                  |
|  | 10                       |                      |                     | 2               |                  | 9            | 102         | 204                  |
|  | 8                        |                      |                     | 2               |                  | 11           | 222         | 222                  |
| <b>Schools</b>                             | <b>75</b>                | <b>17</b>            | <b>25</b>           | <b>7</b>        | <b>49</b>        | <b>17</b>    | <b>357</b>  | <b>547</b>           |
| <b>Number</b>                              | <b>13.7</b>              | <b>3.1</b>           | <b>4.6</b>          | <b>1.3</b>      | <b>9.0</b>       | <b>3.1</b>   | <b>65.3</b> | <b>100.0</b>         |
| <b>Percentage</b>                          |                          |                      |                     |                 |                  |              |             |                      |
| <b>Admissions</b>                          |                          |                      |                     |                 |                  |              |             |                      |
| <b>Number</b>                              | <b>594</b>               | <b>30</b>            | <b>154</b>          | <b>11</b>       | <b>285</b>       | <b>42</b>    | <b>769</b>  | <b>1,885</b>         |
| <b>Percentage</b>                          | <b>31.5</b>              | <b>1.6</b>           | <b>8.2</b>          | <b>0.6</b>      | <b>15.1</b>      | <b>2.2</b>   | <b>40.8</b> | <b>100.0</b>         |
| <b>Average number of places per school</b> | <b>7.9</b>               | <b>1.8</b>           | <b>6.2</b>          | <b>1.6</b>      | <b>5.8</b>       | <b>2.5</b>   | <b>2.2</b>  | <b>3.4</b>           |

SOURCE: Admissions Office.

NOTES

1. The Cambridge pool and direct admissions are included, but 27 admissions from overseas and other schools are excluded.
2. See note to Table 44.

## UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

**Table 50.** *Time in sixth form of applicants by type of school. Men non-graduate candidates for admission in 1965-6 to read for first degrees*

| OXFORD  |                      | PERCENTAGE      |              |            |             |
|---|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| Terms in sixth form at time of entrance competition | Independent boarding | Independent day | Direct-grant | Maintained | All schools |
| 4   | 6.5                  | 9.5             | 9.9          | 28.0       | 15.9        |
| 7   | 65.2                 | 70.6            | 82.0         | 67.6       | 69.3        |
| 10 or more  | 28.4                 | 19.9            | 8.1          | 4.4        | 14.8        |
| All   | 100.0                | 100.0           | 100.0        | 100.0      | 100.0       |
| <i>Number</i>                                       | 1,359                | 326             | 616          | 1,555      | 3,856       |
| Percentage of total                                 | 35.2                 | 8.5             | 16.0         | 40.3       | 100.0       |

SOURCE: Admissions Office.

## NOTES

1. Central applications only are included, and of these 155 from other types of school, or with qualifications other than GCE are excluded.
2. 'Terms in sixth form' are the terms spent on A level (or more advanced) work.

**Table 51.** *Time in sixth form of admissions by type of school. Men non-graduate admissions in 1965-6 to read for first degrees*

| OXFORD  |                      | PERCENTAGE      |              |            |             |
|---|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| Terms in sixth form at time of entrance competition | Independent boarding | Independent day | Direct-grant | Maintained | All schools |
| 4   | 3.2                  | 8.5             | 4.5          | 23.7       | 12.1        |
| 7   | 62.8                 | 68.3            | 85.6         | 71.6       | 70.9        |
| 10 or more  | 34.0                 | 23.2            | 9.9          | 4.6        | 17.1        |
| All   | 100.0                | 100.0           | 100.0        | 100.0      | 100.0       |
| <i>Number</i>                                       | 597                  | 142             | 313          | 712        | 1,764       |
| Percentage of total                                 | 33.8                 | 8.0             | 17.7         | 40.4       | 100.0       |

SOURCE: Admissions Office.

## NOTES

1. Central admissions only are included, and of these 54 from other types of school, or with qualifications other than GCE are excluded.
2. Those included will not correspond exactly with those matriculating in 1965-6 for the reasons stated in Note 1 above and in the note to Table 44.
3. 'Terms in sixth form' are the terms spent on A level (or more advanced) work.

maintained and other schools. The average age and the proportion aged 18 and over were the same for all applicants as for admissions. The pattern was very similar except that applicants from independent boarding schools, for each length of time in the sixth form, were slightly older than those admitted.

**Table 52.** *Average age by time in sixth form and type of school. Men non-graduate admissions in 1965-6 to read for first degrees*

| OXFORD  |                      | YEARS           |              |              |              |
|---|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Terms in sixth form at time of entrance competition | Independent boarding | Independent day | Direct-grant | Maintained   | All schools  |
| 4   | 17.3<br>(21)         | 17.2<br>(—)     | 17.5<br>(29) | 17.6<br>(17) | 17.5<br>(17) |
| 7   | 17.7<br>(30)         | 17.8<br>(31)    | 17.8<br>(35) | 17.9<br>(47) | 17.8<br>(38) |
| 10 or more  | 18.1<br>(60)         | 18.3<br>(75)    | 18.4<br>(90) | 18.3<br>(71) | 18.2<br>(66) |
| All   | 17.8<br>(41)         | 17.8<br>(39)    | 17.8<br>(40) | 17.9<br>(41) | 17.9<br>(41) |

SOURCE: Admissions Office.

NOTES

1. See notes to Table 51.
2. Age is that at 1 November 1964, i.e. shortly before the entrance competition.
3. The percentage of those in each group who were aged 18 and over at 1 November 1964 is shown in brackets.

**Men: GCE qualifications**

116. The GCE A level attainments of applicants and admissions at the time of the competition have been given ratings of 'very good', 'good', or 'pass', following the scheme used by UCCA<sup>1</sup> (Tables 53 and 54). Among applicants, of those having taken two or more A levels, the proportion rated 'very good' was highest for direct-grant and maintained schools, and lowest for independent boarding schools. And the proportion rated 'pass' was lowest for maintained schools and highest for independent boarding

<sup>1</sup> The ratings are based on the detailed classification used by UCCA, but the grouping of the classes is different in two respects. First, UCCA do not distinguish a group 'very good' (see *Second Report 1963-4*, UCCA, 1965, Table 11A). Secondly, their group 'good' is more selective than ours for those with two A levels. Our ratings have been chosen so that candidates with two A levels can achieve the highest rating of 'very good' and the definition of the rating 'good' on two A levels is adjusted accordingly. Only 4 per cent. of candidates who had taken A levels had a rating of 'very good' or 'good' on two A levels, however (they were mainly from independent boarding schools, and almost all were in arts and social studies), and the results would have been very similar had the UCCA convention been followed strictly.

**Table 53.** *GCE A level rating of applicants by type of school. Men non-graduate candidates for admission in 1965-6 to read for first degrees*

| OXFORD                              |                      | PERCENTAGE      |              |              |              |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| A level rating                      | Independent boarding | Independent day | Direct-grant | Maintained   | All schools  |
| Very good                           | 17.3                 | 26.4            | 33.8         | 34.2         | 26.8         |
| Good                                | 35.8                 | 40.0            | 37.2         | 39.7         | 37.8         |
| Pass                                | 38.9                 | 30.8            | 27.1         | 23.8         | 30.9         |
| Fail                                | 8.0                  | 2.7             | 2.0          | 2.3          | 4.5          |
| All having taken A levels           | 100.0                | 100.0           | 100.0        | 100.0        | 100.0        |
| <i>Number having taken A levels</i> | <i>1,269</i>         | <i>295</i>      | <i>557</i>   | <i>1,123</i> | <i>3,244</i> |
| <i>Total number</i>                 | <i>1,359</i>         | <i>326</i>      | <i>616</i>   | <i>1,555</i> | <i>3,856</i> |
| Percentage having taken A levels    | 93.4                 | 90.5            | 90.4         | 72.2         | 84.1         |

SOURCE: Admissions Office.

## NOTES

1. The A level rating (but not the nomenclature) is based on the classification scheme used by UCCA. The rating 'very good' corresponds to UCCA groups 1.3 and 1.2; and 'good' corresponds to UCCA groups 2.3, 3.3, and 2.2. (See *Second Report 1963-4*, UCCA, London, 1965, p. 13.) 'Very good' is defined as an average performance in three subjects better than three B grades or in two subjects better than two B grades. 'Good' is defined as an average performance below 'very good' but in three subjects equal to or better than three C grades; or, in two subjects, better than two C grades. 'Fail' means that at least two A levels had been taken, but fewer than two passes (grade E or better) had been obtained. 'Pass' is a performance between 'Good' and 'Fail'. No significance attaches to the nomenclature except that it gives a readily recognizable ordering of the groups.
2. Where more than three A levels in different subjects had been taken, the rating is based on the three best grades.
3. Where A level passes had been obtained in any subject on more than one occasion, the *latest* grade has been taken.
4. A few candidates had only one A level pass. In almost all cases this was taken in the first year of the sixth-form course. Such candidates have been counted as not having A level.
5. The rating applies to A level passes at the time of the entrance competition.
6. See Note 1 to Table 50.

schools. 8 per cent. from independent boarding schools had failed to obtain two A level passes, and 2 per cent. from the other types of school. Among admissions the relative positions of the different types of school was similar, but the proportion rated 'very good' was much higher. Among both applicants and admissions, the proportion not having taken A levels is, of course, closely related to the proportion from the second-year sixth form.

**Table 54.** *GCE A level rating of admissions by type of school. Men non-graduate admissions in 1965-6 to read for first degrees*

| OXFORD                              |                      | PERCENTAGE      |              |            |             |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| A level rating                      | Independent boarding | Independent day | Direct-grant | Maintained | All schools |
| Very good                           | 33.3                 | 51.6            | 50.8         | 56.4       | 46.3        |
| Good                                | 42.7                 | 35.2            | 34.3         | 33.8       | 37.3        |
| Pass                                | 22.9                 | 12.5            | 14.1         | 9.1        | 15.5        |
| Fail                                | 1.1                  | 0.8             | 0.7          | 0.7        | 0.8         |
| All having taken A levels           | 100.0                | 100.0           | 100.0        | 100.0      | 100.0       |
| <i>Number having taken A levels</i> | 571                  | 128             | 297          | 539        | 1,535       |
| <i>Total number</i>                 | 597                  | 142             | 313          | 712        | 1,764       |
| Percentage having taken A levels    | 95.6                 | 90.1            | 94.9         | 75.7       | 87.0        |

SOURCE: Admissions Office.

NOTE: See Notes 1 and 2 to Table 51 and Notes 1-5 to Table 53.

117. A similar analysis of GCE S level passes is given in Tables 55 and 56. The distributions are based on all those having taken two or more A levels. Of these, 70 per cent. of the applicants and 81 per cent. of the admissions had taken S levels. Among applicants, the proportion having taken S levels was slightly lower for independent boarding schools than for other types of school. Having taken A levels but not S levels could be related to the ability of the candidate, but it could also reflect his school's policy or teaching arrangements and resources. No account can be taken of these factors. The S level ratings are more selective than the A level ratings, and only 11 per cent. of applicants who had taken A levels fell in the two highest S level categories. The proportion with an S level rating of 'good' or better was very close to the proportion with an A level rating of 'very good' for both applicants and admissions. Judged in terms of the two highest S level ratings, applicants and admissions from independent day and direct-grant schools had the highest qualifications, followed by those from independent boarding schools, with those from maintained schools having the lowest qualifications.<sup>1</sup> But if those with a 'good' rating or better are considered, the ranking is maintained schools in the third position, followed by independent boarding schools.

<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that candidates for the London University GCE may take one S level only, and therefore cannot appear in the two highest categories.

**Table 55.** *GCE S level rating of applicants by type of school. Men non-graduate candidates for admission in 1965-6 to read for first degrees*

| OXFORD                                    | PERCENTAGE                   |                         |                  |            |                |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------|----------------|
| S level rating                            | Inde-<br>pendent<br>boarding | Inde-<br>pendent<br>day | Direct-<br>grant | Maintained | All<br>schools |
| Excellent                                 | 4.2                          | 5.8                     | 6.6              | 3.5        | 4.5            |
| Very good                                 | 6.9                          | 9.2                     | 6.8              | 5.9        | 6.7            |
| Good                                      | 12.2                         | 16.9                    | 17.1             | 19.5       | 16.0           |
| Pass                                      | 33.6                         | 34.6                    | 40.0             | 42.0       | 37.7           |
| All having taken S levels                 | 66.4                         | 73.9                    | 72.4             | 72.6       | 70.2           |
| Having taken A levels<br>but not S levels | 33.6                         | 26.1                    | 27.6             | 27.4       | 29.8           |
| All having taken A levels                 | 100.0                        | 100.0                   | 100.0            | 100.0      | 100.0          |
| <i>Number having taken<br/>A levels</i>   | 1,269                        | 295                     | 557              | 1,123      | 3,244          |

SOURCE: Admissions Office.

## NOTES

1. S level passes are graded 1, 2, U in descending order of merit. The rating is based on the two best S level passes in different subjects, the most recent grade being taken where a subject had been taken more than once. The ratings are defined as follows:
 

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Excellent | Two grade 1 passes  |
| Very good | One grade 1 pass and one grade 2 pass                           |
| Good      | One grade 1 pass (and possibly a U grade) or two grade 2 passes |
| Pass      | Any other combination of grades.                                |
2. No significance attaches to the nomenclature except that it gives a readily recognizable ordering of the groups.
3. The rating applies to S level passes at the time of the entrance competition.
4. A number are included under 'All having taken S levels' who had taken S level papers none of which were classified since the necessary qualifying marks at A level (grade C or better) had not been obtained.
5. Only those having taken two A levels at the time of the competition are included.
6. See Note 1 to Table 50.

118. A similar analysis by subject group (Tables 57 and 58) shows that both applicants and admissions in science subjects had better A level qualifications than those in arts and social studies and a higher proportion had taken S level, but their S level qualifications were only slightly better. A larger proportion of applicants and admissions from maintained schools than from independent boarding schools are in science subjects. Part of the difference in A level qualifications of these two groups is thus accounted for by a difference in subject, but there are also substantial differences between the two types of school within the main subject groups.

**Table 56.** *GCE S level rating of admissions by type of school. Men non-graduate admissions in 1965-6 to read for first degrees*

| OXFORD                                 |                      | PERCENTAGE      |              |            |              |
|--|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| S level rating                         | Independent boarding | Independent day | Direct-grant | Maintained | All schools  |
| Excellent                              | 8.9                  | 13.3            | 12.1         | 6.7        | 9.1          |
| Very good                              | 13.5                 | 15.6            | 11.8         | 10.2       | 12.2         |
| Good                                   | 19.8                 | 22.7            | 22.9         | 30.1       | 24.2         |
| Pass                                   | 33.8                 | 30.5            | 34.0         | 35.1       | 34.0         |
| All having taken S levels              | 78.8                 | 85.9            | 81.5         | 82.6       | 81.2         |
| Having taken A levels but not S levels | 21.2                 | 14.1            | 18.5         | 17.4       | 18.8         |
| All having taken A levels              | 100.0                | 100.0           | 100.0        | 100.0      | 100.0        |
| <i>Number having taken A levels</i>    | <i>571</i>           | <i>128</i>      | <i>297</i>   | <i>539</i> | <i>1,535</i> |

SOURCE: Admissions Office.

NOTE: See Notes 1-2 to Table 51 and Notes 1-4 to Table 55.

**Table 57.** *GCE A level rating by subject group. Men non-graduate candidates for admission in 1965-6 to read for first degrees*

| A level rating                      | Applications            |              | Admissions              |            |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------|
|                                     | Arts and social studies | Science      | Arts and social studies | Science    |
| Very good                           | 21.4                    | 37.0         | 38.7                    | 59.7       |
| Good                                | 39.4                    | 34.8         | 42.1                    | 29.0       |
| Pass                                | 34.1                    | 24.9         | 18.1                    | 11.0       |
| Fail                                | 5.2                     | 3.4          | 1.1                     | 0.4        |
| All having taken A levels           | 100.0                   | 100.0        | 100.0                   | 100.0      |
| <i>Number having taken A levels</i> | <i>2,116</i>            | <i>1,128</i> | <i>979</i>              | <i>556</i> |
| <i>Total number</i>                 | <i>2,514</i>            | <i>1,342</i> | <i>1,127</i>            | <i>637</i> |
| Percentage having taken A levels    | 84.2                    | 84.1         | 86.9                    | 87.3       |

SOURCE: Admissions Office.

NOTE: See notes to Tables 53 and 54.

**Table 58.** *GCE S level rating by subject group. Men non-graduate candidates for admission in 1965-6 to read for first degrees*

| S level rating                         | OXFORD                  |              |                         |            | PERCENTAGE |
|--|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|
|  | Applications            |              | Admissions              |            |            |
|  | Arts and social studies | Science      | Arts and social studies | Science    |            |
| Excellent                              | 4.4                     | 4.7          | 9.3                     | 8.8        |            |
| Very good                              | 5.6                     | 8.9          | 10.1                    | 15.8       |            |
| Good                                   | 15.5                    | 17.0         | 23.6                    | 25.4       |            |
| Pass                                   | 37.0                    | 39.2         | 33.8                    | 34.4       |            |
| All having taken S levels              | 68.4                    | 73.7         | 79.0                    | 85.3       |            |
| Having taken A levels but not S levels | 31.6                    | 26.3         | 21.0                    | 14.7       |            |
| All having taken A levels              | 100.0                   | 100.0        | 100.0                   | 100.0      |            |
| <i>Number having taken A levels</i>    | <i>2,116</i>            | <i>1,128</i> | <i>979</i>              | <i>556</i> |            |

SOURCE: Admissions Office.

NOTE: See notes to Tables 55 and 56.

119. There is an apparent inconsistency between the A level and S level ratings in the highest ranges for maintained schools. The two examinations are often thought to test different things—achievement in the former case, and ‘promise’ in the latter—so it is possible that they should give conflicting results. But the apparent inconsistency may be a result of the particular ratings adopted. The ‘very good’ rating for A level is the highest group used by UCCA. But it covers a wide range of results from three good A grades to (for example) a weak A and two B grades. The S level ratings, on the other hand, have as the two highest groups the two highest possible results. If a more selective top rating had been used for A levels it is possible that a relatively small proportion of those from maintained schools would have been found in it.

120. The proportion of admissions gaining open scholarships, or any entrance award, was highest for independent day schools. Next were direct-grant schools followed by maintained schools, while the proportion was lowest for independent boarding schools (Table 59). There was a definite relationship between the proportions gaining open scholarships and all awards, and both A level and S level ratings (Tables 60 and 61). Of those with a rating of ‘excellent’ at S level, 80 per cent. gained awards. Apart from the over-all difference between schools set out in Table 59, there was no systematic difference between types of schools at different A and S level ratings.

**Table 59.** *Open scholars and all award holders as percentage of all admissions by type of school. Men non-graduate admissions in 1965-6 to read for first degrees*

| OXFORD            | PERCENTAGE                   |                         |                  |            |                |
|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------|----------------|
|                   | Inde-<br>pendent<br>boarding | Inde-<br>pendent<br>day | Direct-<br>grant | Maintained | All<br>schools |
| Open scholars     | 18                           | 33                      | 24               | 21         | 21             |
| All award holders | 37                           | 54                      | 46               | 43         | 42             |

SOURCE: Admissions Office.

NOTES

1. See Notes 1-2 to Table 51.
2. Because of the differences in coverage explained in Notes 1-2 to Table 51, the figures for award holders in this table are slightly different from those in Table 33.
3. Holders of closed scholarships and exhibitions are included under all award holders.

**Table 60.** *Open scholars and all award holders as percentage of all admissions by GCE A level rating and subject group. Men non-graduate admissions in 1965-6 to read for first degrees*

| OXFORD                         | PERCENTAGE         |      |                    |                                 |     |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----|
|                                | GCE A level rating |      |                    |                                 | All |
|                                | Very<br>good       | Good | Pass<br>or<br>fail | Not having<br>taken A<br>levels |     |
| <b>ARTS AND SOCIAL STUDIES</b> |                    |      |                    |                                 |     |
| Open scholars                  | 34                 | 13   | 8                  | 17                              | 20  |
| All award holders              | 55                 | 33   | 23                 | 33                              | 39  |
| <b>SCIENCE</b>                 |                    |      |                    |                                 |     |
| Open scholars                  | 35                 | 14   | 10                 | 16                              | 25  |
| All award holders              | 65                 | 30   | 24                 | 28                              | 48  |
| <b>ALL SUBJECTS</b>            |                    |      |                    |                                 |     |
| Open scholars                  | 34                 | 13   | 8                  | 17                              | 21  |
| All award holders              | 60                 | 32   | 24                 | 31                              | 42  |

SOURCE: Admissions Office.

NOTES

1. Holders of closed scholarships and exhibitions are included under all award holders.
2. See Notes 1-2 to Table 51 and Notes 1-5 to Table 53.

**Table 61.** *Open scholars and all award holders as percentage of all admissions by GCE S level rating and subject group. Men non-graduate admissions in 1965-6 to read for first degrees*

|                                | OXFORD             |           |      |      |                                 |                           | PERCENTAGE |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|------|------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|
|                                | GCE S level rating |           |      |      |                                 |                           |            |
|                                | Excellent          | Very good | Good | Pass | Having taken A but not S levels | All having taken A levels |            |
| <b>ARTS AND SOCIAL STUDIES</b> |                    |           |      |      |                                 |                           |            |
| Open scholars                  | 55                 | 29        | 20   | 11   | 16                              | 20                        |            |
| All award holders              | 76                 | 56        | 44   | 29   | 33                              | 40                        |            |
| <b>SCIENCE</b>                 |                    |           |      |      |                                 |                           |            |
| Open scholars                  | 55                 | 42        | 25   | 17   | 16                              | 26                        |            |
| All award holders              | 88                 | 69        | 57   | 37   | 30                              | 50                        |            |
| <b>ALL SUBJECTS</b>            |                    |           |      |      |                                 |                           |            |
| Open scholars                  | 55                 | 35        | 22   | 14   | 16                              | 22                        |            |
| All award holders              | 80                 | 62        | 49   | 32   | 32                              | 44                        |            |

SOURCE: Admissions Office.

NOTE: See Notes 1-2 to Table 51, Notes 1-2 and 4 to Table 55, and Note 1 to Table 60.

121. The less selective nature of the A level ratings compared with the S level ratings is illustrated by the fact that the proportions of open scholars and of all award holders among those with S level ratings of 'good' or better were 32 per cent. and 59 per cent. respectively—almost as high as among those with A level ratings 'very good'.

### Women

122. The information on women's admissions relates to the December 1964 competition for admission in October 1965 and covers applications from non-graduates only.

123. Two important points of difference from the men's admissions are that there was no formal central admissions scheme, and that candidates could apply separately to Cambridge. There were a number of applicants who declined places when offered, presumably because a place or award had been accepted at Cambridge.

124. There were 1,842 applications, of whom 443 were admitted (i.e. were offered and accepted places), 86 with awards. A further 89 declined places offered, 22 of whom also refused awards. No candidate was offered a place before the special examination.

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

**Table 62.** *Type of school of applicants and admissions. Women non-graduate candidates for admission in 1965-6 to read for first degrees*

OXFORD

| Type of school       | Applications (including those who declined a place) |                | Applications (excluding those who declined a place) |                | Admissions |                | Acceptance rate                    |                                    |
|----------------------|---|----------------|---|----------------|------------|----------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                      | Number (1)  | Percentage (2) | Number (3)  | Percentage (4) | Number (5) | Percentage (6) | Col. (5) as percentage of col. (1) | Col. (5) as percentage of col. (3) |
|                      |   |                |   |                |            |                |                                    |                                    |
| Independent boarding | 318   | 17.3           | ..  | ..             | 85         | 19.2           | 26.7                               | ..                                 |
| Independent day      | 205   | 11.1           | ..  | ..             | 54         | 12.2           | 26.3                               | ..                                 |
| Direct-grant         | 382   | 20.7           | 362   | 20.7           | 106        | 23.9           | 27.7                               | 29.3                               |
| Maintained           | 874   | 47.5           | 832   | 47.5           | 189        | 42.7           | 21.6                               | 22.7                               |
| Others               | 63  | 3.4            | 63  | 3.6            | 9          | 2.0            | 14.3                               | 14.3                               |
| All independent      | 523   | 28.4           | 496   | 28.3           | 139        | 31.4           | 26.6                               | 28.0                               |
| All schools          | 1,842   | 100.0          | 1,753   | 100.0          | 443        | 100.0          | 24.0                               | 25.3                               |

SOURCE: Women's colleges.

NOTES

1. Those included in this table are those taking part in the December 1964 competition, and the total of 443 admissions will differ from non-graduates matriculating in 1965-6 in so far as some of those accepting places may have subsequently withdrawn.

2. There may be a small amount of double counting in the applications.

**Women : type of school**

125. Table 62 shows applications, admissions, and acceptance<sup>1</sup> rates by type of school. Compared with the men, the over-all acceptance rate was much lower, and that for applicants from maintained schools was below the average whereas for men it was a little above the average. But nearly half the applications came from maintained schools, and in the distribution of admissions there was a marginally higher proportion from maintained schools than for men.

**Table 63.** *Type of school of applicants and admissions by college. Women non-graduate candidates for admission in 1965-6 to read for first degrees*

| OXFORD              | PERCENTAGE                   |                         |                  |                 |                  |                |        |
|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|--------|
| College             | Independ-<br>ent<br>boarding | Independ-<br>ent<br>day | Direct-<br>grant | Main-<br>tained | Other<br>schools | All<br>schools | Number |
| <b>APPLICATIONS</b> |                              |                         |                  |                 |                  |                |        |
| Lady Margaret       |                              |                         |                  |                 |                  |                |        |
| Hall                | 22                           | 10                      | 20               | 39              | 9                | 100            | 311    |
| St. Anne's          | 19                           | 12                      | 27               | 40              | 1                | 100            | 478    |
| St. Hilda's         | 16                           | 9                       | 15               | 57              | 2                | 100            | 414    |
| St. Hugh's          | 19                           | 7                       | 19               | 53              | 3                | 100            | 323    |
| Somerville          | 9                            | 17                      | 22               | 48              | 3                | 100            | 316    |
| All colleges        | 17                           | 11                      | 21               | 48              | 3                | 100            | 1,842  |
| <b>ADMISSIONS</b>   |                              |                         |                  |                 |                  |                |        |
| Lady Margaret       |                              |                         |                  |                 |                  |                |        |
| Hall                | 25                           | 4                       | 29               | 39              | 4                | 100            | 85     |
| St. Anne's          | 26                           | 16                      | 25               | 32              | 1                | 100            | 103    |
| St. Hilda's         | 17                           | 12                      | 12               | 56              | 2                | 100            | 89     |
| St. Hugh's          | 17                           | 9                       | 23               | 48              | 2                | 100            | 81     |
| Somerville          | 9                            | 20                      | 29               | 40              | 1                | 100            | 85     |
| All colleges        | 19                           | 12                      | 24               | 43              | 2                | 100            | 443    |

SOURCE: Women's colleges.

**NOTES**

1. Those who declined a place are included among applicants.
2. Applicants are included under their college of first choice.
3. See notes to Table 62.

126. Table 63 gives type of school of applicants and admissions by college. Within colleges there are likely to be considerable year-to-year fluctuations in the proportions of both applicants and admissions from different types of school.

<sup>1</sup> Acceptance, that is, by the colleges. One set of acceptance rates includes among applicants those who subsequently declined a place; the other does not.

**Women : subject**

127. Table 64 gives applications, admissions, and acceptance rates by subject of proposed degree course. The Schools attracting the largest numbers of applicants were Modern History, English, and Modern Languages. In Modern History the acceptance rate was average, and in the other two it was well below average. Among the remaining larger subjects above average acceptance rates obtained for Literae Humaniores, PPE, Physics, Chemistry, and Zoology, while in Jurisprudence the acceptance rate was below average. The acceptance rates might, however, be affected by the teaching resources of the colleges as well as the quality of the applicants.

**Table 64. Proposed Honour School of applicants and admissions. Women non-graduate candidates for admission in 1965-6 to read for first degrees**

| Honour School                | Applica-<br>tions<br>(including<br>those who<br>declined<br>a place)<br>(1) | Applica-<br>tions<br>(excluding<br>those who<br>declined<br>a place)<br>(2) | Admissions<br>(3) | Acceptance rate                                 |   |
|------------------------------|---|---|-------------------|---|---|
|                              |   |   |                   | Col. (3) as<br>percentage of<br>col. (1)<br>(4) | Col. (3) as<br>percentage of<br>col. (2)<br>(5) |
| Literae Humaniores           | 80  | 68  | 31                | 39  | 46  |
| Theology                     | 4   | 4   | 1                 | 25  | 25  |
| Modern History               | 249   | 241   | 60                | 24  | 25  |
| English                      | 366   | 358   | 68                | 19  | 19  |
| Modern Languages             | 377   | 367   | 68                | 18  | 19  |
| Oriental Studies             | 10  | 10  | 5                 | 50  | 50  |
| Geography                    | 51  | 49  | 13                | 25  | 27  |
| Music                        | 23  | 22  | 7                 | 30  | 32  |
| Jurisprudence                | 58  | 55  | 10                | 17  | 18  |
| PPE                          | 115   | 112   | 37                | 32  | 33  |
| Mathematics                  | 158   | 147   | 36                | 23  | 24  |
| Physics                      | 51  | 46  | 18                | 35  | 39  |
| Chemistry                    | 84  | 73  | 25                | 30  | 34  |
| Biochemistry                 | 35  | 32  | 7                 | 20  | 22  |
| Animal Physiology            | 108   | 102   | 26                | 24  | 25  |
| Zoology                      | 40  | 35  | 19                | 48  | 54  |
| Botany                       | 10  | 10  | 3                 | 30  | 30  |
| Geology                      | —   | —   | —                 | .   | .   |
| PPP                          | 17  | 16  | 7                 | 41  | 44  |
| Engineering                  | 5   | 5   | 1                 | 20  | 20  |
| Engineering and<br>Economics | —   | —   | —                 | .   | .   |
| Metallurgy                   | —   | —   | —                 | .   | .   |
| Agriculture                  | 1   | 1   | 1                 | 100   | 100   |
| Forestry                     | —   | —   | —                 | .   | .   |
| All Honour Schools           | 1,842   | 1,753   | 443               | 24  | 25  |

SOURCE: Women's colleges.

NOTE: See notes to Table 62.

**Table 65.** *GCE A level qualifications. Women non-graduate candidates for admission in 1965-6 to read for first degrees*

| OXFORD  | PERCENTAGE                |                              |       |               |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------------|-------|---------------|
|   | With<br>A level<br>passes | Without<br>A level<br>passes | All   | <i>Number</i> |
| Applicants  | 65.9                      | 34.1                         | 100.0 | 1,842         |
| Admissions  | 75.4                      | 24.6                         | 100.0 | 443           |
| Admissions as percentage of<br>applicants (acceptance rate) | 27.5                      | 17.3                         | 24.0  |               |

SOURCE: Women's colleges.

NOTES

1. The applicants include those who subsequently withdrew.
2. See notes to Table 62.

### Women : GCE qualifications

128. The proportion of admissions without A level passes was 25 per cent., twice that for men. The acceptance rate was 28 per cent. among applicants with A levels, and 17 per cent. among those without A levels. The differential between the acceptance rates for those with, and those without, A levels was higher than for men.

#### THE ACADEMIC EFFICIENCY OF OXFORD ADMISSIONS

129. In the present context academic efficiency is defined (but not precisely) in terms of Oxford obtaining the highest quality of entrants; the prime criterion of quality being performance in the Honour Schools.

130. Selection procedures for university admissions are far from perfect, and it is clearly impossible to ensure that no weak individuals are admitted. But it is obviously desirable to discover systematic biases if they exist. Three possible kinds of bias<sup>1</sup> are considered here; that operating against women, regionally, or against candidates from maintained schools.

131. Any investigation of this kind must use criteria by which to judge the quality of candidates for admission. As already stated, class of Oxford degree is the prime criterion. But at least three years must pass before this criterion can be applied,<sup>2</sup> and it cannot be applied at all to those who fail to gain admission. An attempt has therefore been made to use other criteria for which evidence is available. Admission to another university is one measure of quality. Attainment as measured by GCE A and S levels is another, and so is a career in a school sixth form. None of these criteria is ideal, but the first two are preferred to the last.

<sup>1</sup> The word is used in a technical sense, not as a synonym of 'prejudice'.

<sup>2</sup> Except for graduates of other universities, with whom we are not concerned here.

132. Biases in admissions, if they exist, may occur in two ways. First, they may occur in the application rate. If would-be applicants whom Oxford would like to accept are deterred by the impression that they stand no chance of admission, or by the nature of the admissions competition, then it should be possible to remove some of the hindrances, and hence improve the entry. Secondly, there may be biases (conscious or unconscious) in the process of selecting from applicants. Both these possible sources of bias are considered where appropriate, and where suitable data are available.

133. The main conclusion from the analyses that follow is that Oxford has admitted disproportionately few men undergraduates from maintained schools, though the proportion has increased strikingly in recent years. The main reason has been that the application rate from such schools has been low, but it is also true that the acceptance rate for candidates with given levels of qualifications appears to be lower for candidates from maintained schools than for candidates from independent boarding schools. The application rate from maintained schools is low largely because candidates from such schools whose sixth-form work is organized on a two-year basis rather than a three-year basis find themselves at a disadvantage in the admissions competition. It has not been possible to determine the size of this group of schools with any precision. Apart from any disadvantage connected with type of school, there does not appear to be any significant regional bias. There is a bias against women in the sense that it should be possible to increase the admissions of women while keeping their quality at least as high as that of the men.

### Region

134. England and Wales only are considered.

135. The figures given in Tables 66 and 67 are in terms of entries per 1,000 sixth-form pupils. They take no account of possible variations between the regions in the proportions of sixth formers going on to university. Separate figures are given for the main types of schools, and there is a difficulty in interpreting those for independent schools. For entrants are classified according to home address, whereas sixth formers are classified according to address of school. To the extent that pupils attend schools in a region other than that in which they live, like is not being compared with like. (This difficulty could also occur with maintained and direct-grant schools, but it is unlikely to have a significant effect as there are few boarding pupils at these schools.) In so far as independent schools are concentrated in the south-east, and draw pupils from other regions, the figure in the table will be lower than if entrants had been classified by the region of their school.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Forty-four per cent. of all sixth-form boys were in the south-east, but 57 per cent. of sixth-form boys at independent schools were in the south-east.

## UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

**Table 66.** *Number of entrants to read for first degrees, 1964-5, per 1,000 pupils in sixth forms by region and type of school. Men non-graduates from England and Wales*

|                   | RATIO       |              |            |      |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|------|
|                   | Independent | Direct-grant | Maintained | All  |
| North             | 27.8        | 18.9         | 7.3        | 11.1 |
| Midlands          | 19.5        | 37.1         | 6.8        | 11.6 |
| Wales             | 44.2        | (40.7)       | 3.7        | 6.3  |
| South-east        | 41.0        | 26.1         | 7.7        | 16.7 |
| South-west        | 19.2        | 21.6         | 4.9        | 11.7 |
| England and Wales | 32.7        | 24.4         | 7.0        | 13.5 |

SOURCE: Sixth-form pupils: Department of Education and Science.  
Entrants: matriculation forms.

## NOTES:

1. Those from other types of schools are excluded.
2. The numbers of sixth-form pupils are those at January 1964.
3. All entrants from independent schools are included, but sixth-form pupils at independent schools recognized as efficient only are included.
4. Where entrants were 5 or less, the entry in the table is in brackets.

**Table 67.** *Number of entrants to read for first degrees, 1964-5, per 1,000 pupils in sixth forms by region and type of school. Women non-graduates from England and Wales*

|                   | RATIO       |              |            |     |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-----|
|                   | Independent | Direct-grant | Maintained | All |
| North             | 5.8         | 7.7          | 1.8        | 3.2 |
| Midlands          | 8.5         | 15.4         | 2.0        | 3.7 |
| Wales             | (4.3)       | (3.8)        | (0.9)      | 1.3 |
| South-east        | 8.3         | 18.9         | 2.5        | 4.8 |
| South-west        | 10.7        | (1.7)        | 1.6        | 3.8 |
| England and Wales | 8.2         | 12.0         | 2.1        | 3.9 |

SOURCE: Sixth-form pupils: Department of Education and Science.  
Entrants: matriculation forms.

NOTE: See notes to Table 66.

136. Although the numbers from Wales are small, they suggest marked under-representation compared with England; but Wales, like Scotland, has its 'own' university system.

137. From maintained schools, the largest entry (in proportion to sixth formers) came from the south-east, followed by the north and midlands. It was smallest from the south-west. The differences are not large, however. The pattern is similar for men and women.

138. The midlands entry from direct-grant schools was high (the highest for men) and so was that of the south-east (the highest for women).

139. The main feature of the entry from independent schools is that for men it was much higher for the south-east than for other parts of England, and would probably be higher still if entrants were classified by the region of their school.

140. The over-all figures show a higher entry for the south-east, and not a great deal of difference between the other regions of England. For men the higher entry from the south-east is largely due to the position at independent schools.

141. Thus, if there is a definite regional bias in entries, it would appear to be in favour of the south-east, largely because of the high proportion of sixth formers at independent schools who enter. But reaching the sixth form is not in itself a qualification to enter Oxford, and no account has been taken of the proportion of sixth formers who might be so qualified. Those who go on to any university would be a better guide, and if the proportion of sixth formers going on to university were higher in the south-east, this would account for some of the apparent bias shown in Tables 66 and 67.

### Sex

142. The proportion of women undergraduates at universities other than Oxford and Cambridge is 31 per cent.; at Oxford it is 16 per cent. This suggests that it should be possible to increase the proportion of women at Oxford unless a higher proportion of women than of men at other universities gain poor degrees or no degrees, and would not be regarded as potential entrants to Oxford. The evidence on this point is threefold.

143. First, the statistics collected by the Robbins Committee show the wastage rate is much the same for men as for women, and that of those graduating in Great Britain in 1958 (and receiving honours or pass degrees) 59 per cent. of the men and 57 per cent. of the women received first- or second-class honours.<sup>1</sup> There was more difference between men and women receiving firsts or upper seconds (36 per cent. and 29 per cent. respectively); but this will be partly accounted for by there being a higher proportion of firsts and upper seconds in science, while a lower proportion of women than of men read science. There was also a lower than average proportion of firsts and seconds among women from maintained schools.

144. Secondly, there is the evidence on the class of degree obtained by men and women at Oxford. Table 68 shows that over the past decade a

<sup>1</sup> Robbins Report, Appendix Two (A), Part IV, p. 133, and Table 31, p. 155.

substantially higher proportion of women than of men have gained firsts or seconds, though the proportion of women gaining firsts has been lower. The proportion of Oxford men gaining firsts or seconds has been about the same as the national proportion in 1958, but the proportion for Oxford women is well above the national proportion.

**Table 68.** *Percentage of those graduating who gained first- and second-class honours*

|      | OXFORD |                    |        |                    |               |                    | PERCENTAGE |  |
|------|--------|--------------------|--------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------|--|
|      | Men    |                    | Women  |                    | Men and women |                    |            |  |
|      | Firsts | Firsts and seconds | Firsts | Firsts and seconds | Firsts        | Firsts and seconds |            |  |
| 1955 | 7.5    | 61.1               | 4.2    | 82.4               | 7.0           | 64.7               |            |  |
| 1956 | 9.0    | 59.2               | 6.0    | 78.1               | 8.5           | 62.4               |            |  |
| 1957 | 8.0    | 58.3               | 6.6    | 76.2               | 7.7           | 61.3               |            |  |
| 1958 | 8.1    | 59.0               | 7.9    | 79.4               | 8.1           | 62.2               |            |  |
| 1959 | 7.6    | 59.2               | 8.5    | 73.1               | 7.7           | 61.2               |            |  |
| 1960 | 8.4    | 57.5               | 7.9    | 78.7               | 8.3           | 60.4               |            |  |
| 1961 | 8.9    | 63.2               | 4.5    | 71.4               | 8.3           | 64.3               |            |  |
| 1962 | 8.3    | 62.9               | 6.2    | 69.1               | 8.0           | 63.7               |            |  |
| 1963 | 8.7    | 62.2               | 7.5    | 78.4               | 8.5           | 64.6               |            |  |
| 1964 | 9.1    | 63.2               | 9.0    | 79.2               | 9.1           | 65.9               |            |  |

SOURCE: *Oxford Magazine* (annual articles).

NOTES

1. For 1955-8 the figures are the percentage of all those obtaining a class; for 1959-64 they are the percentage of all those obtaining a class, an *aegrotat*, a pass degree, or failing in Honours examinations.
2. The results of the B.C.L. are included.

145. These two pieces of evidence suggest that women entering Oxford are on average of higher intellectual calibre than men, whereas there is little to choose between the sexes nationally.<sup>1</sup> If a larger proportion of places were available for women at Oxford it should therefore be possible to increase the Oxford intake of women without their performance falling below that of men.

146. This evidence is buttressed by an analysis of the A level performance of applicants and admissions to universities in October 1964 made through UCCA. Table 69 shows that women applicants were rather better qualified than men; that the acceptance rates were very similar; and thus among admissions, the women were rather better qualified.

<sup>1</sup> These statements are based on those gaining firsts or seconds. They do not apply to those gaining firsts.

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

Table 69. Applicants and admissions through UCCA for entry to universities in October 1964, by A level qualifications, subject group, and sex

|                      | PERCENTAGE                                |      |      |        |           |      |                |           |        |        |           |   |      |
|----------------------|---|------|------|--------|-----------|------|----------------|-----------|--------|--------|-----------|---|------|
|                      | Applicants (excluding those who withdrew) |      |      |        |           |      | Admissions     |           |        |        |           | Acceptance rates (admissions as percentage of applicants) |      |
|                      | A level rating                            |      |      | Number |           |      | A level rating |           |        | Number |           | A level rating  |      |
|                      | Very good                                 | Good | Pass | Fail   | Very good | Good | Pass           | Very good | Good   | Pass   | Very good | Good  | Pass |
| <b>MEN</b>           |   |      |      |        |           |      |                |           |        |        |           |   |      |
| Arts                 | 9.1                                       | 34.2 | 49.2 | 7.5    | 5,209     | 15.6 | 53.5           | 30.9      | 2,006  | 95.6   | 87.4      | 35.0  | 55.8 |
| Social studies       | 7.2                                       | 30.6 | 53.6 | 8.5    | 4,194     | 14.1 | 53.0           | 32.9      | 2,105  | 98.0   | 86.8      | 30.8  | 50.2 |
| Science              | 13.9                                      | 30.8 | 47.5 | 7.8    | 12,181    | 19.8 | 42.1           | 38.1      | 8,472  | 98.9   | 95.0      | 55.9  | 69.6 |
| Medicine             | 4.8                                       | 23.0 | 58.7 | 13.4   | 2,315     | 10.7 | 42.4           | 46.9      | 988    | 94.6   | 78.8      | 34.0  | 42.7 |
| All subjects         | 10.8                                      | 30.8 | 50.0 | 8.4    | 23,899    | 17.5 | 46.0           | 36.5      | 14,471 | 98.0   | 90.6      | 44.2  | 60.6 |
| <b>WOMEN</b>         |   |      |      |        |           |      |                |           |        |        |           |   |      |
| Arts                 | 15.7                                      | 38.5 | 41.4 | 4.4    | 6,092     | 24.0 | 54.5           | 21.5      | 3,075  | 98.5   | 91.0      | 33.3  | 64.3 |
| Social studies       | 8.4                                       | 32.2 | 51.7 | 7.7    | 1,722     | 15.8 | 53.6           | 30.6      | 800    | 97.3   | 86.4      | 30.7  | 51.0 |
| Science              | 12.4                                      | 32.3 | 47.0 | 8.4    | 3,072     | 17.4 | 44.2           | 38.4      | 2,150  | 98.4   | 96.0      | 57.1  | 70.0 |
| Medicine             | 8.4                                       | 29.3 | 49.9 | 12.4   | 910       | 16.3 | 48.1           | 35.6      | 495    | 86.8   | 73.0      | 31.7  | 44.5 |
| All subjects         | 13.2                                      | 35.2 | 45.0 | 6.5    | 11,806    | 20.7 | 51.0           | 28.3      | 7,569  | 97.8   | 90.4      | 39.2  | 62.4 |
| <b>MEN AND WOMEN</b> |   |      |      |        |           |      |                |           |        |        |           |   |      |
| Arts                 | 12.6                                      | 36.5 | 45.0 | 5.8    | 11,301    | 20.4 | 54.1           | 25.5      | 6,821  | 97.5   | 89.4      | 34.2  | 60.4 |
| Social studies       | 7.6                                       | 31.1 | 53.1 | 8.3    | 5,926     | 14.6 | 53.2           | 32.2      | 3,004  | 97.8   | 86.7      | 30.8  | 50.7 |
| Science              | 13.6                                      | 31.1 | 47.4 | 7.9    | 15,853    | 19.3 | 42.5           | 38.2      | 10,822 | 98.8   | 95.2      | 56.1  | 69.6 |
| Medicine             | 5.8                                       | 24.8 | 56.2 | 13.1   | 3,225     | 12.3 | 44.1           | 43.6      | 1,393  | 91.5   | 76.8      | 33.5  | 43.2 |
| All subjects         | 11.6                                      | 32.2 | 48.4 | 7.8    | 35,705    | 18.6 | 47.7           | 33.8      | 21,840 | 97.9   | 90.5      | 42.7  | 61.2 |

SOURCE: Second Report 1963-4, UCCA, Tables 15-25.

NOTES

1. Those with A levels which could not be classified (UCCA groups U.2, U.3, and U) are excluded.
2. The A level ratings are described in Note 1 to Table 53.
3. This table is based on a large sample of all applicants. See source for details.

147. It should thus be possible to increase the proportion of women undergraduates to the 20-25 per cent. recommended as a planning figure by the Commission. This would depend on sufficient suitably qualified women applying for admission, but since the number of applicants per place is roughly twice that for men, some increase should be possible as soon as places are made available.

**Table 70.** *Applicants and admissions for entry to read first degrees at Oxford in October 1965 by subject. Women non-graduates*

| OXFORD               | PERCENTAGE  |            |                 |
|----------------------|---|------------|-----------------|
|                      | Applicants<br>(excluding<br>those who<br>declined a<br>place) | Admissions | Acceptance rate |
| Arts                 | 63.8  | 57.1       | 22.6            |
| Social studies       | 9.5   | 10.6       | 28.1            |
| Science and medicine | 26.6  | 32.3       | 30.6            |
| All subjects         | 100.0   | 100.0      | 25.3            |
| <i>Number</i>        | 1,753   | 443        | .               |

SOURCE: Table 64.

NOTE: See notes to Table 62.

**Table 71.** *Applicants and admissions through UCCA for entry to universities in October 1964 by subject. Women*

|                | PERCENTAGE   |            |                 |
|----------------|--|------------|-----------------|
|                | Applicants<br>(excluding<br>those who<br>withdrew) | Admissions | Acceptance rate |
| Arts           | 51.0   | 53.2       | 59.8            |
| Social studies | 15.3   | 12.4       | 46.6            |
| Science        | 25.6   | 28.9       | 64.8            |
| Medicine       | 8.0  | 5.5        | 39.2            |
| All subjects   | 100.0  | 100.0      | 57.4            |
| <i>Number</i>  | 13,086   | 7,512      | .               |

SOURCE: *Second Report 1963-4*, UCCA, Tables 15-25.

NOTE: This table is based on a large sample of all applicants through UCCA. See source for details.

148. A further important consideration is the balance of subjects. The proportion of women undergraduates reading arts at Oxford is already higher than for men (Table 12) and it would lead to an unsatisfactory balance of subjects in the women's colleges if the untapped 'pool' consisted mainly of those wishing to read arts subjects. Tables 70 and 71 compare admissions by subject at Oxford with those at other universities. They show that a slightly higher proportion are admitted nationally than at Oxford to read social studies, and science and medicine, while in arts the proportion is slightly lower. It would appear that, although Oxford has not much leeway, increasing the entry of women need not lead to a worsening of the balance of subjects. One potential problem would be to persuade more suitably qualified girls wishing to read science to apply to Oxford, since the acceptance rate in science is at present well above that in arts.

### Type of school

149. Entrants to university in 1961 from England and Wales were much the same proportion of school leavers who were formally qualified (with at least two A levels) for each type of school. For men, the over-all proportion was 66 per cent.; it was 63 per cent. for maintained, and 69 per cent. for independent schools. The corresponding figures for women were 48 per cent., 49 per cent., and 51 per cent. But the proportions going to Oxford or Cambridge were very different. Of all men with two or more A levels, 14 per cent. went to Oxford or Cambridge; but of those from maintained schools the figure was 7 per cent., while it was 33 per cent. for those from independent schools. 2 per cent. of 'qualified' women from maintained schools went to Oxford or Cambridge, compared with 7 per cent. from independent schools, the over-all figure being 4 per cent.<sup>1</sup> Undergraduates from maintained schools were thus less well represented at Oxford than at other universities.

150. In 1961 60 per cent. of all men undergraduates at universities in England and Wales were from maintained schools, whereas for Oxford the figure was 33 per cent. At London it was 58 per cent. The position was similar for women for whom the proportions were 67 per cent., 40 per cent., and 56 per cent. respectively.<sup>2</sup>

151. Since 1961 there has been an increase in the proportion of undergraduates from maintained schools both at Oxford and nationally, but the increase in the proportion of men from maintained schools appears to have been considerably less at other universities than it was at Oxford. Tables 31 and 32 show that for entrants to Oxford from schools in 1965-6, 40

<sup>1</sup> Robbins Report, Appendix Two (B), Part I, Table 14, p. 13.

<sup>2</sup> Robbins Report, Appendix Two (B), Part I, Table 11, p. 9. The figures for Oxford are consistent with Tables 31 and 32, making allowance for sampling fluctuations and the difference in date.

**Table 72.** *Type of school of school leavers in 1963-4 who intended going on to university. England and Wales*

|               | PERCENTAGE  |              |            |             |        |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------|--------|
|               | Independent | Direct-grant | Maintained | All schools | Number |
| Men           | 21          | 15           | 64         | 100         | 17,520 |
| Women         | 13          | 15           | 72         | 100         | 8,090  |
| Men and women | 18          | 15           | 67         | 100         | 25,610 |

SOURCE: Department of Education and Science.

NOTES

1. Independent schools not recognized as efficient are excluded.
2. Included in this table are school leavers in 1963-4 who intended going on to university within 12 months of leaving school.

per cent. of the men and 43 per cent. of the women were from maintained schools (and if entrants from overseas and 'other' schools are excluded, the proportions are 41 per cent. and 44 per cent. respectively). Table 72 gives the distribution of school leavers in 1963-4 from schools in England and Wales<sup>1</sup> who intended to go on to university, and shows that 64 per cent. of men and 72 per cent. of women were from maintained schools. This is only an approximation to the distribution of all entrants in 1964-5 for a number of reasons. The proportion from independent schools is slightly understated since leavers from independent schools not recognized as efficient are excluded. Entrants to universities in England and Wales in 1964-5 will also be different to the extent that some came from schools outside England and Wales; that some school leavers went to universities outside England and Wales; and some entrants to universities left school before 1963-4. However, these differences in coverage will affect the pattern only to the extent that they affect leavers from the various types of school differently. And similar figures for two previous years show a lower proportion from maintained schools. Of school leavers in 1960-1 who intended to go on to university, 62 per cent. of the men and 66 per cent. of the women were from maintained schools; the corresponding figures for school leavers in 1962-3 were 62 per cent. and 67 per cent.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Except from independent schools not recognized as efficient.

<sup>2</sup> *Statistics of Education*, 1961, Part II, Table 7; and 1963, Part III, Table 9. There is one difference between the compilation of these figures and those of school leavers in 1963-4. The category 'leaving to enter temporary employment', which includes leavers intending eventually to enter universities, was defined precisely for 1963-4 leavers, but not for earlier years. The definition embraces leavers whose intended entry to full-time further education was 13 or more months after leaving school, but was not later than September/October 1965. In earlier years the interpretation of the term was at the discretion of the schools making returns.

152. In the Robbins Report this situation is analysed further and in particular in terms of the qualifications of entrants, and of the relation between applications and admissions.<sup>1</sup> The main results are summarized in paras. 153 and 154 and 164-72 below.

153. In the latter half of the fifties the relative position of the maintained schools declined (Table R. 15). The number of university places did not rise as fast as the number of school children aged 17, and in this sense there was a decline in opportunity. (It is possible that the increase in the number of school children aged 17 merely reflects a change in the composition of sixth forms. Evidence examined by the Robbins Committee suggests, however, that in the case of boys the number qualified for university entry rose at the same rate as the number at school aged 17, and in the case of girls, the number so qualified rose more quickly.)<sup>2</sup> The relative decline in 'opportunity' for men was greater for pupils from maintained schools (since the number of 17-year-olds increased more rapidly at this type of school), and was especially great with respect to Oxford and Cambridge (which did not expand as fast as other universities).

154. At the national level the qualifications (in terms of A levels) were not significantly different for undergraduates from different types of school in 1961-2 (Table R. 21), but entrants to Oxford and Cambridge were better qualified than entrants to other universities (Table R. 25), and among undergraduates at Oxford and Cambridge significant differences emerged when they were classified by type of school (Table R. 26). 22 per cent. of all undergraduates with two or more A levels had three or more at grades A or B.<sup>3</sup> 43 per cent. at Oxford and Cambridge came into this category, compared with 26 per cent. at London and 16 per cent. at other English universities. At Oxford and Cambridge, 58 per cent. from maintained schools had three or more A levels at grades A or B, compared with 50 per cent. from direct-grant schools and 30 per cent. from independent schools. Similar but smaller differences by type of school apply to London and other universities.<sup>4</sup> These results are in line with our findings on Oxford, but the differences between entrants from the different types of school have either narrowed somewhat since 1961-2 or were less at Oxford than at Cambridge in 1961-2. (See Table 54 which relates, however, to qualifications of men at the time of the admissions competition, not on entry.)

<sup>1</sup> See Robbins Report, Appendix Two (B), Part I, pp. 14-25, 34-44, 46-51, and, in particular, Tables 15, 21, 25, 26, 40, 42, 43, 48-53. For brevity, tables from this part of the report will be referred to as Table R. 15, etc., in the following paragraphs.

<sup>2</sup> Robbins Report, Appendix One, Annex R, pp. 253-6.

<sup>3</sup> This category is similar to our category 'very good'. It includes all those rated 'very good' in our classification except those with AAC, AA, or AB, and some rated as 'good' (i.e. the combination BBB).

<sup>4</sup> This holds despite there being no appreciable over-all difference as is shown in Table R. 21.

**Table 73.** *Percentage of those having three complete years in the sixth form who sat A or S levels a second time at end of third year, by sex and type of school. Undergraduates entering in October 1962*

| OXFORD |             | PERCENTAGE   |            |  |
|--------|-------------|--------------|------------|--|
|        | Independent | Direct-grant | Maintained |  |
| Men    | 64          | 35           | 44         |  |
| Women  | 16          | 9            | 39         |  |

SOURCE: Peterson, A. D. C., 'The sixth form experience of Oxford entrants', *Oxford Magazine*, 6 February 1964.

155. Part of the difference in A level qualifications could be that independent schools lay less stress on them. There is little statistical evidence on this, but a survey of entrants to Oxford in October 1962 by Mr. A. D. C. Peterson showed that among those men completing a third year in the sixth form, the proportion resitting A levels was higher for independent than for maintained or direct-grant schools (Table 73). This does not suggest that A levels are considered less important in independent boys' schools but the proportion resitting A levels need not indicate the extent to which the schools aim to achieve the best possible A level grades. For women, the proportions were lower, and the highest proportion was among those from maintained schools.

156. The evidence from the Robbins Report, and that in Tables 33, 34, and 59 (on award holders), and 54 and 56 (on GCE qualifications of men), shows that the qualifications of men entrants from maintained schools (except at the highest ratings of S level) have been better than those of entrants from independent boarding schools, while the qualifications of entrants from independent day and direct-grant schools are either superior to those of entrants from maintained schools, or lie between those of entrants from maintained and independent boarding schools. But it is likely that the differential between independent boarding and maintained schools was smaller for entrants in 1965-6 than in earlier years.

157. Some further evidence on the calibre of undergraduates from different types of school can be obtained by comparing degree results. Tables 74 and 75 summarize some results from a one-in-two sample of matriculations in 1958-9 (fuller results are given in Part III, paras. 283-7) and also give results compiled by Mr. W. A. Hayward, Mr. J. Muschamp, the Revd. L. M. Styer, and Mr. G. D. N. Worswick. This evidence, which for men spans graduations between 1951 and 1965, will not, of course, reflect any changes that have occurred in the composition of the entry in the most recent two or three years.

158. The distribution of the 1958 matriculations in respect of type of school and proportion of award holders is not exactly the same as in Tables 31-34 because of sampling fluctuations and wastage, but the differences are small.

159. Among the 1958 matriculations of men (most of whom graduated in 1961) the highest proportion of firsts went to those from independent day and direct-grant schools, but the highest proportion of firsts or seconds went to those from maintained schools. In each case those from independent boarding schools gained the smallest proportion. The other data on men are consistent with this except for Merton graduations, where independent schools did slightly better than maintained schools on firsts,<sup>1</sup> and direct-grant schools did better than maintained schools on firsts or seconds.

160. Thus three samples from single years, and four samples covering a number of years lead broadly to the conclusion that in the fifties and early sixties independent day and direct-grant schools have provided the highest, and independent boarding the lowest, proportions of firsts among men, while maintained schools have provided the smallest, and independent boarding schools the largest, proportions of thirds among men. It may also be noted that, despite this finding, entrants from maintained schools have gained only a slightly larger proportion of awards than have entrants from independent boarding schools.<sup>2</sup>

161. Among women the position is less clear. The numbers are smaller, and the 1961 degree results were something of a freak, as Table 68 shows. Less firm conclusions can therefore be drawn. Worswick's analysis shows women from independent schools gaining more firsts, but fewer firsts or seconds than women from maintained schools. In the 1958 matriculations sample, however, the performance of women from maintained schools is very poor, while that of women from independent boarding schools is the best.

162. The better-than-average degree performance of men from maintained schools need not imply that the calibre of *entrants* from maintained schools has been above average if the wastage amongst such men has been higher than average. But such evidence as is available suggests that this is not so, and that wastage amongst men from maintained schools is below average. (That for women from maintained schools is about average.) And wastage of entrants from independent boarding schools is above average. The evidence is provided by a survey of 1955 entrants quoted by the Robbins Committee, which takes account of wastage before the final examination, but not of failures in finals, and by our sample of 1958 matriculations.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> But independent day schools are not distinguished.

<sup>2</sup> See Table 33. In the sample of 1958 matriculations, men from maintained schools had a slightly *lower* proportion of awards than men from independent boarding schools.

<sup>3</sup> Robbins Report, Appendix Two (A), Part IV, Table 11, p. 134; and Part III, paras. 257-9 below.

**Table 74.** Degree performance and holders of awards by type of school. Men non-graduates

| OXFORD                                     |                      | PERCENTAGE    |                  |               |               |                     |
|--|----------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Source                                     | Type of school       | Percentage in |                  | Percentage of |               | Percentage of total |
|  |                      | 1st class     | 1st or 2nd class | Scholars      | Award holders |                     |
| 1958 matriculations<br>(one-in-two sample) | Independent boarding | 7.8           | 55.7             | 20.6          | 32.4          | 41.8                |
|  | Independent day      | 11.5          | 69.0             | 23.0          | 44.8          | 9.1                 |
|  | All independent      | 8.4           | 58.0             | 21.0          | 34.6          | 50.9                |
|  | Direct-grant         | 12.1          | 66.0             | 23.4          | 40.4          | 14.8                |
|  | Maintained           | 9.8           | 71.6             | 18.9          | 31.5          | 33.2                |
| <i>Number = 954</i>                        | All schools          | 9.4           | 63.6             | 20.6          | 34.3          | 100.0               |
| 1965 Class Lists                           | Independent          | 8.0           | 63.2             | ..            | ..            | 47.4                |
|  | Direct-grant         | 16.0          | 74.2             | ..            | ..            | 17.1                |
|  | Maintained           | 10.0          | 76.8             | ..            | ..            | 33.5                |
| <i>Number = 1,604</i>                      | All schools          | 10.0          | 69.3             | ..            | ..            | 100.0               |
| 1956 Class Lists                           | Independent (HMC)    | 7.8           | 52.4             | ..            | ..            | ..                  |
|  | Direct-grant (HMC)   | 13.9          | 68.1             | ..            | ..            | ..                  |
|  | Maintained           | 9.5           | 69.0             | ..            | ..            | ..                  |
| <i>Number = 1,100</i>                      | All schools          | 10.0          | 69.3             | ..            | ..            | 100.0               |
| Balliol admissions<br>(1950-62)            | Independent          | 15.3          | ..               | ..            | ..            | 52.8                |
|  | Direct-grant         | 20.0          | ..               | ..            | ..            | 14.2                |
|  | Maintained           | 16.1          | ..               | ..            | ..            | 33.0                |
| <i>Number = 1,018</i>                      | All schools          | 16.2          | ..               | ..            | 35.3          | 100.0               |
| Keble admissions<br>(1950-62)              | Independent          | 1.5           | ..               | ..            | 15.2          | 41.5                |
|  | Direct-grant         | 2.6           | ..               | ..            | 17.7          | 16.8                |
|  | Maintained           | 5.9           | ..               | ..            | 13.0          | 41.7                |
| <i>Number = 1,145</i>                      | All schools          | 3.5           | ..               | ..            | 14.7          | 100.0               |
| Merton graduations<br>(1951-62)            | Independent          | 11.6          | 68.1             | ..            | 40.4          | 53.2                |
|  | Direct-grant         | 15.5          | 78.3             | ..            | 60.6          | 15.6                |
|  | Maintained           | 11.1          | 70.3             | ..            | 37.0          | 31.2                |
| <i>Number = 605</i>                        | All schools          | 12.2          | 70.5             | ..            | 42.5          | 100.0               |
| Wadham admissions<br>(1950-62)             | Independent          | 9.1           | ..               | ..            | 19.9          | 36.9                |
|  | Direct-grant         | 12.2          | ..               | ..            | 29.4          | 18.2                |
|  | Maintained           | 10.4          | ..               | ..            | 17.4          | 44.9                |
| <i>Number = 897</i>                        | All schools          | 10.3          | ..               | ..            | 20.5          | 100.0               |

SOURCE: 1958 matriculations: Registry.

1965 Class Lists: Styler, L. M., *Oxford Magazine*, 3 December 1965.

1956 Class Lists: Worswick, G. D. N., 'Anatomy of Oxbridge', *The Times Educational Supplement*, 3 May 1957.

College admissions and graduations: the colleges concerned. The data were compiled by Mr. W. A. Hayward and Mr. J. Muschamp.

#### NOTES

1. The 'all schools' row for 1958 matriculations and for 1965 Class Lists includes those from other types of schools.
2. Graduates, and those from overseas or other types of school are excluded, except as in Note 1.
3. It is not possible to obtain figures for all schools from the source on 1956 Class Lists. The numbers in the categories given were: independent, 628; direct, grant, 144, and maintained, 328.

**Table 75.** Degree performance and holders of awards by type of school. Women non-graduates

| OXFORD                                     |                      | PERCENTAGE    |                  |               |               |                     |
|--|----------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Source                                     | Type of school       | Percentage in |                  | Percentage of |               | Percentage of total |
|  |                      | 1st class     | 1st or 2nd class | Scholars      | Award holders |                     |
| 1958 matriculations<br>(one-in-two sample) | Independent boarding | 10.0          | 70.0             | 10.0          | 10.0          | 19.0                |
|  | Independent day      | 5.6           | 61.2             | 16.7          | 27.8          | 11.4                |
|  | All independent      | 8.3           | 66.7             | 12.5          | 16.7          | 30.4                |
|  | Direct-grant         | 7.0           | 69.8             | 14.0          | 32.6          | 27.2                |
|  | Maintained           | —             | 55.4             | 7.7           | 16.9          | 41.1                |
| <i>Number = 156</i>                        | All schools          | 4.4           | 63.3             | 10.8          | 20.9          | 100.0               |
| 1956 Class Lists<br><i>Number = 187</i>    | Independent          | 5.8           | 73.3             | ..            | ..            | ..                  |
|  | Maintained           | 3.0           | 82.1             | ..            | ..            | ..                  |

SOURCE: 1958 matriculations: Registry.  
1956 Class Lists: Worswick, G. D. N., 'Anatomy of Oxbridge', *The Times Educational Supplement*, 3 May 1957.

NOTES

1. The 'all schools' row for 1958 matriculations includes those from other types of schools.
2. In the data on 1956 Class Lists only schools listed as Principal Girls' Schools in *Whitaker's Almanack* are included as independent schools.
3. Those from overseas or other types of school are excluded from the data on 1956 Class Lists.
4. It is not possible to obtain figures for all schools from the source on 1956 Class Lists. The numbers in the categories given were: independent, 120; maintained, 67.

163. If entrants from maintained schools are of higher than average, and entrants from independent boarding schools are of lower than average, calibre,<sup>1</sup> either fewer potential entrants are applying from maintained schools (the application rate is low), or the selection process is, in effect, more stringent when applied to applicants from maintained schools (the acceptance rate is low), or both.

164. An examination of the position by the Robbins Committee, based on their survey of undergraduates in 1961-2, led to the conclusion that the difference between the distribution of men undergraduates by type of school at all universities, and that at Oxford and Cambridge<sup>2</sup> could be attributed to both the application rates and the acceptance rates, but that differences in the application rates were far more important than differences in the acceptance rates (Table R. 53).

<sup>1</sup> Particularly for men.

<sup>2</sup> It should be borne in mind that the proportion of men undergraduates from maintained schools was substantially higher at Oxford than at Cambridge. See Table R. 11.

165. A third of all undergraduates in 1961-2 had applied to Oxford or Cambridge (37 per cent. of men and 22 per cent. of women), but there were large differences by type of school. Among men, 67 per cent. from independent schools, 43 per cent. from direct-grant schools, and 22 per cent. from maintained schools had applied. The corresponding figures for women were 34 per cent., 30 per cent., and 16 per cent. (see Table R. 48).

166. This indicates large differences in the application rates. These differences persist when undergraduates are classified by their A levels (Table R. 49), but the differences were greater for those with the lower grades of A levels. Among men with two or more A levels,<sup>1</sup> the proportion of undergraduates with three or more A levels at grades A or B who had applied to Oxford or Cambridge was 76 per cent. from independent schools and 43 per cent. from maintained schools, but the proportions for those with no more than one A level at grades A or B were 58 per cent. from independent schools and 13 per cent. from maintained schools. Thus the differences in the application rates were greater among the more marginal candidates.

167. There were also considerable differences in the acceptance rates of applicants from different types of school, especially among men (see Table R. 50). Of all men undergraduates in 1961 who had applied to Oxford or Cambridge, 78 per cent. of those from independent, 66 per cent. of those from direct-grant, and 52 per cent. of those from maintained schools were accepted. Among women the acceptance rates from independent (39 per cent.) and maintained (37 per cent.) schools were much the same, and less than from direct-grant schools (53 per cent.).

168. These differences do not appear to be due to candidates from maintained schools having been less well qualified, since among men 44 per cent. of applicants from maintained schools had three or more grade A or B passes in A level (when at university, not necessarily at the time of applying) against 27 per cent. of applicants from independent schools (Table R. 51).

169. The position had changed among men entrants by 1965-6. In the first place there was little difference between the over-all acceptance rates (Tables 43 and 44), in contrast to the position in 1961-2 as shown in Table R. 50. But although it is likely there have been changes in the underlying pattern of admissions, of which the increased proportion of entrants from maintained schools is one manifestation, part of the difference between the two sets of figures is due to differences in the ways in which they were compiled.<sup>2</sup> The Robbins Committee statistics are restricted to applicants to Oxford or Cambridge who entered some university or other. In effect,

<sup>1</sup> Separate figures are not given for women.

<sup>2</sup> See Robbins Report, Appendix Two (B), Annex I, pp. 438-9.

potential entrants to Oxford and Cambridge are assumed to be restricted to those who do gain a university place somewhere in Great Britain. This means excluding any well-qualified candidates who prefer to go to no university, or to go to a university abroad, if they cannot obtain a place at Oxford or Cambridge, and this may be thought a disadvantage. But it also excludes weak candidates who are rejected by any other university to which they apply, and this may be thought an advantage. If candidates in these two categories are drawn more than proportionately from independent schools (and the relatively high proportion of candidates from independent boarding schools who had failed A levels, as shown in Table 53, is a pointer in this direction), part of the discrepancy between Tables 43 and 44 and the Robbins Committee statistics would be explained. Further, candidates for entry may apply in more than one year. No account of this is taken in Tables 43 and 44, which do not, therefore, give the chances of eventually gaining admission for candidates from the different types of school. Some evidence that reapplications are less frequent among candidates from maintained schools is given in the following paragraph. Another difference between Table R. 50 and Table 43 is that Table R. 50 treated Oxford and Cambridge as a single category, and to the extent that some candidates applied to both Oxford and Cambridge for admission in 1964-5 the tables are not comparable. But this difference can hardly have been significant in the following year, when candidates made a single application putting Oxford and Cambridge in an order of preference, and Oxford admissions from the Cambridge pool were only 3 per cent. of all admissions.

**Table 76.** *Candidates for admission in 1965-6 who failed to gain a place and who reapplied for admission in 1966-7, by type of school and subject group. Men non-graduates*

| OXFORD                  |  |  |                                      |  |   |                                    |
|-------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|
|                         | Number who failed to gain a place for 1965-6 | Number who reapplied for admission in 1966-7 | Number who gained a place for 1966-7 | Percentage reapplying col. (2) as percentage of col. (1) | Acceptance rate for those reapplying col. (3) as percentage of col. (2) | Col. (3) as percentage of col. (1) |
|                         | (1)  | (2)  | (3)                                  | (4)  | (5)   | (6)                                |
| <b>TYPE OF SCHOOL</b>   |  |  |                                      |  |   |                                    |
| Independent boarding    | 762  | 119  | 40                                   | 16   | 34  | 5.2                                |
| Independent day         | 184  | 23   | 13                                   | 13   | 57  | 7.1                                |
| Direct-grant            | 303  | 41   | 10                                   | 14   | 46  | 6.3                                |
| Maintained              | 843  | 77   | 37                                   | 9  | 48  | 4.4                                |
| <b>SUBJECT GROUP</b>    |  |  |                                      |  |   |                                    |
| Arts and social studies | 1,387  | 198  | 86                                   | 14   | 43  | 6.2                                |
| Science                 | 705  | 62   | 23                                   | 9  | 37  | 3.3                                |
| All                     | 2,092  | 260  | 109                                  | 12   | 42  | 5.2                                |

SOURCE: Admissions Office.

NOTE: See Note 1 to Table 50.

170. Of the applicants in the December 1964 competition who failed to gain a place, 260 applied again in the following year, of whom 109 (42 per cent.) gained a place. 36, or 33 per cent. of those gaining a place, won an award. These include 12 who won an open scholarship. The proportions of reapplicants who were in the second-year sixth form in December 1964 were 20 per cent. for independent boarding schools, 17 per cent. for independent day schools, 34 per cent. for direct-grant schools, and 69 per cent. for maintained schools. The acceptance rate for the reapplicants was only marginally lower than the over-all acceptance rate of 44 per cent. (see note to para. 110). Table 76 gives some further details about the reapplicants. The acceptance rate was lowest for reapplicants from independent boarding schools. Of those who failed to gain a place in December 1964, the proportion reapplying was 12 per cent.; it was above average for candidates from independent boarding schools, and below average for those from maintained schools. But because the acceptance rate for candidates from independent boarding schools was relatively low, there was less difference between these schools and maintained schools in the number who gained a place at the second attempt expressed as a percentage of all who failed to gain a place in December 1964 (see column (6) of Table 76). These details of reapplicants suggest that a part, but only a relatively small part, of the differences between Table 44 and Table R. 50 can be explained in terms of differential reapplication rates.<sup>1</sup>

171. Men applicants from maintained schools for admission in 1965-6 were better qualified, in terms of A levels, than those from independent boarding schools. Comparison of Table 53 and Table R. 51 suggests that the position had not altered substantially since the years in which those who were undergraduates in 1961-2 entered universities.

172. Acceptance rates were found by the Robbins Committee to vary with A level qualifications, as well as with type of school (Table R. 52). As was noted with application rates, the differences for men between independent and maintained schools were greater at the lower grades of A levels. Among undergraduates in 1961-2, acceptance rates at Oxford and Cambridge for men from independent schools were 87 per cent. for those with three or more A level passes at grades A or B, and 71 per cent. for those with no more than one such pass. The corresponding figures for men from maintained schools were 65 per cent. and 35 per cent. respectively.

173. The acceptance rates in Table 77 are also systematically lower for maintained than for independent boarding schools<sup>2</sup> and the differences are greater at the lower ratings, but they are smaller than in Table R. 52. Thus,

<sup>1</sup> The calculations given here do not take account of the proportion of applicants in December 1964 who were then applying for a second time. It is unlikely that an allowance for this would substantially alter the results.

<sup>2</sup> Except among the very small number who had failed A levels.

Table 77 shows acceptance rates for independent boarding schools of 87 per cent. at the 'very good' A level rating and 27 per cent. at the 'pass' rating.<sup>1</sup> The corresponding figures for maintained schools were 79 per cent. and 18 per cent.

**Table 77.** *Acceptance rate by GCE A level rating and type of school. Men non-graduate candidates for admission in 1965-6 to read for first degrees*

| A level rating            | OXFORD                       |                      |                  |                 |                | PERCENTAGE |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|
|                           | Indepen-<br>dent<br>boarding | Indepen-<br>dent day | Direct-<br>grant | Main-<br>tained | All<br>schools |            |
| Very good                 | 86.8                         | 84.6                 | 80.3             | 79.2            | 81.8           |            |
| Good                      | 53.7                         | 38.1                 | 49.3             | 40.8            | 46.8           |            |
| Pass                      | 26.5                         | 17.6                 | 27.8             | 18.4            | 23.7           |            |
| Fail                      | 5.9                          | 12.5                 | 18.2             | 15.4            | 8.8            |            |
| All having taken A levels | 45.0                         | 43.4                 | 53.3             | 48.0            | 47.3           |            |
| Not having taken A levels | 28.9                         | 45.2                 | 27.1             | 40.0            | 37.4           |            |
| All                       | 43.9                         | 43.6                 | 50.8             | 45.8            | 45.7           |            |

SOURCE: Admissions Office.

NOTE: See notes to Tables 53 and 54.

174. In these comparisons the criterion of quality is (perforce) A level qualifications, and it may be objected that A level performance is not a reliable indicator of academic promise. No final answer can be given on this point until the Admissions Office has accumulated records over at least three years, when A level qualifications and performance in the entrance competition can both be compared with degree performance. However, the results in Tables 54, 74, and R. 26 show that men entrants from maintained schools had, on average, better A level qualifications than men from independent boarding schools, and they achieved better degrees.<sup>2</sup> Although this evidence does not throw much light on the value of A levels as a measure of academic promise in individuals, it suggests that A level qualifications are useful in an aggregative sense, and that the higher the proportion of good A levels in a group, the higher the proportion who will achieve a good (first- or second-class) degree. In the absence of any better measure it seems reasonable to use A levels as an approximate measure of academic promise in this aggregative sense.

<sup>1</sup> For all independent schools the figures were 86 per cent. and 26 per cent.

<sup>2</sup> It should be noted, however, that the three tables referred to relate to different individuals.

**Table 78.** *Acceptance rate by GCE S level rating and type of school. Men non-graduate candidates for admission in 1965-6 to read for first degrees*

| S level rating                         | OXFORD               |                 |              |            |             |
|--|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
|  | Independent boarding | Independent day | Direct-grant | Maintained | All schools |
| Excellent                              | 96.2                 | 100.0           | 97.3         | 92.3       | 95.9        |
| Very good                              | 88.5                 | 74.1            | 92.1         | 83.3       | 85.8        |
| Good                                   | 72.9                 | 58.0            | 71.6         | 74.0       | 71.7        |
| Pass                                   | 45.2                 | 38.2            | 45.3         | 40.0       | 42.6        |
| All having taken S levels              | 53.4                 | 50.5            | 60.0         | 54.6       | 54.7        |
| Having taken A levels but not S levels | 28.3                 | 23.4            | 35.7         | 30.5       | 29.8        |
| All having taken A levels              | 45.0                 | 43.4            | 53.3         | 48.0       | 47.3        |

SOURCE: Admissions Office.

NOTE: See notes to Tables 55 and 56.

175. Table 78 shows acceptance rates analysed by S level ratings. At the two highest and the lowest ratings, the acceptance rate was higher for independent boarding than for maintained schools, but the differences are smaller than in the case of A levels. At the 'good' rating, the acceptance rate was marginally higher for maintained schools. There is at present no adequate evidence on the relative merits of A and S levels as predictors of academic performance.<sup>1</sup>

176. The preceding paragraphs may be summarized as follows. First, acceptance rates at a given level of GCE qualifications have been lower (with the exception given in the previous paragraph), for men applicants from maintained schools than for candidates from independent boarding schools, with the differences tending to be greater at the lower levels of qualifications. Secondly, the differences in the acceptance rates have diminished considerably in the past five years. Thirdly, the differences are smaller when candidates are classified by S levels than when they are classified by A levels.

177. Acceptance rates when candidates are classified by their time in the sixth form are given in Table 79. There were considerable differences both between candidates from the second-year sixth and the third-year sixth,

<sup>1</sup> It may be noted, however, that among the top 46 per cent. of admissions, the proportions of open scholars (and of all award holders) were practically the same when admissions were ranked by A levels as when they were ranked by S levels. See para. 121 and Tables 54, 56, and 60.

and between candidates from the third-year sixth and the fourth-year sixth. A lower than average acceptance rate might be expected for candidates from the second-year sixth form. This is partly because some such candidates are having a 'trial run', and partly because the entrance examination is designed more with candidates from the third-year sixth in mind (although allowance is made for candidates from the second-year sixth form, and their schools are invited to show on the application form the parts of the A level syllabus which such candidates will not have covered). The acceptance rate for candidates from the second-year sixth form of maintained schools was above the average for all from the second-year sixth. The difference between the acceptance rates for candidates from the third- and fourth-year sixth forms of independent schools was large; the corresponding difference for maintained schools was small.

**Table 79.** *Acceptance rates by time in sixth form and type of school. Men non-graduate candidates for admission in 1965-6 to read for first degrees*

| OXFORD  | PERCENTAGE           |                 |              |            |             |
|---|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| Terms in sixth form at time of entrance competition | Independent boarding | Independent day | Direct-grant | Maintained | All schools |
| 4   | 15.9                 | 38.7            | 23.0         | 38.6       | 33.8        |
| 7   | 40.7                 | 41.1            | 53.0         | 48.4       | 46.1        |
| 10 or more  | 58.0                 | 55.4            | 62.0         | 50.7       | 57.2        |
| All   | 43.9                 | 43.6            | 50.8         | 45.8       | 45.7        |

SOURCE: Admissions Office.

NOTE: See notes to Tables 50 and 51.

178. The acceptance rate was higher in science than in arts and social studies. But the candidates were better qualified in terms of A levels (see Table 57 above) and the acceptance rates at each A level rating were lower in science (Table 80). In terms of S levels, the acceptance rates were higher in science at each rating except the highest. In both subject groups the acceptance rate was higher for those with a 'pass' rating than for those with A levels who had not taken S level papers. This, however, may be partly a reflection of the rule in force in 1964 that S level papers were not given a grade unless the corresponding A level was grade C or better.

179. The application rate was discussed in paras. 163-6 above. It is lower from maintained schools than from direct-grant and independent schools, and this is the most important reason for the relatively small proportion of undergraduates from maintained schools at Oxford compared with other universities.<sup>1</sup> The low application rate could be a result of either or both

<sup>1</sup> The Robbins Committee statistics show that this was so in the years immediately preceding 1961-2 (see paras. 165-6 above); Table 44 taken together with Table 72 suggests strongly that it is still so.

**Table 80.** *Acceptance rate by GCE A level rating and subject group. Men non-graduate candidates for admission in 1965-6 to read for first degrees*

| OXFORD                    | PERCENTAGE              |         |              |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------|--------------|
|                           | Arts and social studies | Science | All subjects |
| A level rating            |                         |         |              |
| Very good                 | 83.8                    | 79.6    | 81.8         |
| Good                      | 49.5                    | 41.1    | 46.8         |
| Pass                      | 24.5                    | 21.7    | 23.7         |
| Fail                      | 10.1                    | 5.3     | 8.8          |
| All having taken A levels | 46.3                    | 49.3    | 47.3         |
| Not having taken A levels | 37.2                    | 37.9    | 37.4         |
| All                       | 44.8                    | 47.5    | 45.7         |

SOURCE: Admissions Office.

NOTE: See notes to Tables 53 and 54.

**Table 81.** *Acceptance rate by GCE S level rating and subject group. Men non-graduate candidates for admission in 1965-6 to read for first degrees*

| OXFORD                                 | PERCENTAGE              |         |              |
|--|-------------------------|---------|--------------|
|  | Arts and social studies | Science | All subjects |
| S level rating                         |                         |         |              |
| Excellent                              | 97.8                    | 92.5    | 95.9         |
| Very good                              | 83.9                    | 88.0    | 85.8         |
| Good                                   | 70.6                    | 73.4    | 71.7         |
| Pass                                   | 42.3                    | 43.2    | 42.6         |
| All having taken S levels              | 53.4                    | 57.0    | 54.7         |
| Having taken A levels but not S levels | 30.8                    | 27.6    | 29.8         |
| All having taken A levels              | 46.3                    | 49.3    | 47.3         |

SOURCE: Admissions Office.

NOTE: See notes to Tables 55 and 56.

of two factors: a more stringent pre-selection of candidates generally; and a failure to attract candidates in any numbers from some of the maintained schools, in particular those whose sixth-form organization is based on a two-year course directed towards A levels, rather than a three-year (or at least seven-term) course with preparation for the Oxford and Cambridge entrance competitions a regular part of sixth-form work. The formulation of policies to improve the application rate from maintained schools requires information on the structure, size, and number of schools which do not regularly submit candidates to Oxford, and on the methods of those which do. Some evidence on these topics is presented below.

180. Tables 51 and 65 showed that 12 per cent. of men and 25 per cent. of women entering Oxford in 1965-6 spent no more than two years in the sixth form.<sup>1</sup> Surveys of entrants in 1962-3 and 1963-4 by Mr. A. D. C. Peterson are similar, but suggest that the proportion of women entrants from the second-year sixth form has been increasing (Table 82), while that for men may have declined slightly.

**Table 82.** *Entrants from the second-year sixth form as percentage of all entrants by sex*

| OXFORD          |        | PERCENTAGE        |        |
|-----------------|--------|-------------------|--------|
| Men entering in |        | Women entering in |        |
| 1962-3          | 1963-4 | 1962-3            | 1963-4 |
| 15              | 13     | 18                | 21     |

SOURCE: Surveys carried out by Mr. A. D. C. Peterson, Director of the Institute of Education, Oxford. For results of the survey in 1962-3 see Peterson, A. D. C. 'The sixth form experience of Oxford entrants', *Oxford Magazine*, 6 February 1964.

181. In many boys' schools, a third (or fourth) year in the sixth form is achieved, not by staying at school longer, but by means of an 'express stream' in the middle school so that the sixth form is reached at an early age. The average ages in Table 52 illustrate this.

182. In order to discover more about the schools which do not regularly submit candidates to Oxford, the Commission selected 13 such schools (Group A), and 11 schools which do regularly submit candidates to Oxford (Group B). A questionnaire was completed by each school, and the heads subsequently gave oral evidence (*Oral Evidence*, Part 102).

183. Schools in Group A were all maintained; they had between 500 and 1,000 pupils. Six were boys' schools, two were girls' schools, and five were mixed. The average number of pupils was 760.

<sup>1</sup> The figure for women relates to those who had no A level passes at the time of the entrance competition.

184. Three of the schools in Group B were independent, two were direct-grant schools, and of the six maintained schools, two were voluntary aided schools, and one was a voluntary controlled school. There were eight boys' and three girls' schools, ranging in size from 440 to 1,100 pupils. The average size was 660 pupils.

185. Table 83 gives a summary of some of the characteristics of the two groups of schools in the autumn term 1964. In Group B 17 per cent. of the sixth formers were in the third or subsequent years, compared with 6 per cent. in Group A. Candidates for any U.K. university formed much the same proportion of sixth formers beyond the first year for each group, but the proportion aiming at Oxford or Cambridge was over three times as high for Group B as for Group A. There was a much greater concentration of Oxford and Cambridge graduates on the staffs of schools in Group B.

186. Some further facts which emerged from the questionnaire are that 70 per cent. of the sixth formers in Group B schools had two O levels in languages against only 30 per cent. for Group A. Eight of the schools in Group B had an 'express stream'<sup>1</sup> who took O level at age 15+; only two of the schools in Group A appear to have a regular 'express stream', but three others bring small selected groups of pupils to O levels at age 15+. In ten of the Group B schools, four or more periods per week of special teaching is given to pupils in the third- and fourth-year sixth form in most subjects. Five of the Group A schools certainly provide such teaching, with two more being marginal cases. None of the schools provides special teaching for the Oxford and Cambridge entrance examinations in the second-year sixth form (except possibly for a few individual pupils unable to stay for a third year). All the schools in Group B provide such special teaching in the third year. One school in Group A provides such teaching and four or five others make *ad hoc* arrangements as the need arises.

187. Although the samples were not representative, the inquiry demonstrates the existence of maintained schools preparing a high proportion of their sixth formers for university entrance, but submitting relatively few candidates to Oxford and Cambridge. The evidence of their heads makes clear the difficulties which such schools have, both in persuading promising pupils to stay on for an extra year to try for Oxford and Cambridge, and in properly preparing candidates for the entrance examinations.

188. It is extremely difficult to determine how many schools in England and Wales might fall into Group A, and harder still to determine how many of their candidates for other universities would prefer to try for Oxford or Cambridge if the admissions procedure were modified.

<sup>1</sup> The 'express stream' may apply to the whole intake of the school.



UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

**Table 83. Results from the survey of schools, Autumn Term 1964**

|  | Number of schools | Average number of sixth-form pupils | Year of course of sixth-form pupils (percentage) |    |    |           | Candidates for U.K. universities as percentage of sixth formers in all years except first | Candidates for Oxford or Cambridge as percentage of sixth formers by year of course |   |    |                   | Number of Oxford or Cambridge graduates on staff per 100 pupils |            |            |
|--|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--|----|----|-----------|---|---|---|----|-------------------|---|------------|------------|
|  |                   |                                     | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4 or more |   | 2   | 3 | 4  | All or more first |   | Sixth form | All pupils |
| Schools which do not regularly submit candidates to Oxford (Group A) | 13                | 139                                 | 51   | 43 | 6  | —         | 100   | 55  | 2 | 31 | 6                 | 3.3   | 0.6        |            |
| Schools which regularly submit candidates to Oxford (Group B)        | 11                | 261                                 | 41   | 41 | 15 | 2         | 100   | 52  | 1 | 62 | 100               | 22  | 9.8        | 3.8        |

SOURCE: Schools questionnaire.

**Table 84.** *Schools with sixth forms and with third-year sixth forms by type of school. England and Wales, January 1965*

|              | NUMBER             |                  |                    |                  |                     |                  |
|--------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|              | Boys' schools with |                  | Mixed schools with |                  | Girls' schools with |                  |
|              | Sixth form         | Third-year sixth | Sixth form         | Third-year sixth | Sixth form          | Third-year sixth |
| Independent  | 197                | 148              | 72                 | 19               | 359                 | 73               |
| Direct-grant | 82                 | 81               | 2                  | 2                | 95                  | 47               |
| Maintained   | 600                | 390              | 912                | 426              | 596                 | 222              |
| All schools  | 879                | 619              | 986                | 447              | 1,050               | 342              |

SOURCE: Department of Education and Science.

## NOTES

1. Independent schools not recognized as efficient are excluded.
2. Schools with third-year sixth forms are defined as schools having sixth-form pupils who are following GCE A level courses in the third or subsequent year of the course. By 'year of course' is meant the level of study as determined by the curriculum and not the time spent in the course by an individual pupil.

**Table 85.** *Number of pupils in sixth forms by type of school. England and Wales, January 1965*

|              | Boys                  |                            |   | Girls                 |                            |   |
|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|---|-----------------------|----------------------------|---|
|              | Number in sixth forms | Number in third-year sixth | Percentage of sixth formers in third year | Number in sixth forms | Number in third-year sixth | Percentage of sixth formers in third year |
|              | Independent           | 24,053                     | 2,892                                     | 12.0                  | 10,828                     | 178                                       |
| Direct-grant | 13,305                | 1,835                      | 13.8                                      | 9,097                 | 175                        | 1.9                                       |
| Maintained   | 92,587                | 6,517                      | 7.0                                       | 66,666                | 1,532                      | 2.3                                       |
| All schools  | 129,945               | 11,244                     | 8.7                                       | 86,591                | 1,885                      | 2.2                                       |

SOURCE: Department of Education and Science.

## NOTES

1. Pupils not following GCE A level courses (almost all of whom are in the first-year sixth form) are excluded.
2. See notes to Table 84.

189. One difficulty lies in determining how many schools have a third-year sixth in the special sense used here of a third year largely concerned with preparation for entry to Oxford and Cambridge. The Department of Education and Science compiles statistics of sixth forms divided by year of course. A large majority of boys' schools have pupils in the third year of the sixth, as can be seen from Table 86, and such schools account for almost all sixth formers at boys' schools (Table 87). The proportions of mixed and girls' schools with sixth forms which have a third-year sixth form are lower, and less than half. But among mixed and girls' maintained schools, those with a third-year sixth form account for about 90 per cent. of all sixth formers. (Some information on sixth forms and sixth-form pupils is given in Tables 84 and 85 to which further reference is made below.) Thus, the overwhelming majority of men applying to Oxford must come from schools with a third-year sixth form of some kind, but among an unknown number of these schools, particularly the maintained schools, the third-year sixth is not specially geared to the Oxford examination (and it may be very small).

**Table 86.** *Schools with third-year sixth forms as percentage of all schools with sixth form by type of school. England and Wales, January 1965*

|              | PERCENTAGE    |               |                |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
|              | Boys' schools | Mixed schools | Girls' schools |
| Independent  | 75            | 26            | 20             |
| Direct-grant | 99            | 100           | 49             |
| Maintained   | 65            | 47            | 37             |
| All schools  | 70            | 45            | 33             |

SOURCE: Table 84.

NOTE: See notes to Table 84.

**Table 87.** *Sixth-form pupils at schools with third-year sixth form as percentage of all sixth-form pupils, by type of school. England and Wales, January 1965*

|              | PERCENTAGE    |               |                |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
|              | Boys' schools | Mixed schools | Girls' schools |
| Independent  | 92            | 46            | 27             |
| Direct-grant | 99            | 100           | 51             |
| Maintained   | 97            | 91            | 89             |
| All schools  | 96            | 90            | 73             |

SOURCE: Department of Education and Science.

NOTE: See notes to Table 84.

190. The total third-year sixth form does not consist entirely of candidates for Oxford and Cambridge, but they probably constitute a substantial proportion of it, even for maintained schools. But there is a complication which makes an estimate difficult. The statistics in Table 85 were collected in January 1965, and successful candidates for Oxford and Cambridge who left school when they were sure of a place would not be included. It is impossible to say how many of these there were; but Peterson's surveys of entrants to Oxford (see para. 95) showed that of those spending at least seven terms in the sixth form, 91 per cent. of entrants in 1962-3 completed nine terms, but only 48 per cent. of entrants in 1963-4 (56 per cent. of men and 23 per cent. of women) did so. The Robbins Committee found that 29 per cent. of undergraduates at Oxford and Cambridge in 1961-2 had spent over six months but under a year between leaving school and entering university.<sup>1</sup> The survey of schools (see para. 182) showed that of the third- and fourth-year sixth formers at schools in Group B in the Autumn Term 1964, 57 per cent. had left before the end of the academic year 1964-5 (some having left at Easter). The corresponding figure for schools in Group A was 36 per cent.

191. Applicants to Oxford and Cambridge probably numbered rather more than 8,000 in December 1964. If none left in the December, these candidates would account for almost all boys in third-year sixth forms at independent schools, between half and three-quarters at direct-grant schools, and between a third and half at maintained schools.<sup>2</sup> Since some will have left in the December the actual proportions will be lower than this, but by an unknown amount.

192. In passing, it may be noted that the statistics of the Department of Education and Science suggest that the third-year sixth form is not increasing in numbers, although total sixth-form numbers<sup>3</sup> (and entrants to universities) are increasing. In January 1963 12,600 boys were in the third year of sixth forms, out of 107,500 altogether, or 11.7 per cent. In January 1964 the corresponding figures were 11,200 out of 121,500, or 9.2 per cent.<sup>4</sup> The decline between January 1963 and January 1964 in both absolute numbers and the proportion in the third-year sixth is similar for each type of school and for girls. By January 1965 the number of boys in sixth forms had increased to 129,900 (Table 85) while the number in the third year of sixth forms remained at 11,200, a fall in independent schools

<sup>1</sup> Robbins Report, Appendix Two (B), Part I, Table 42, p. 40.

<sup>2</sup> A rough allowance has been made for those applying from the second-year sixth.

<sup>3</sup> Pupils not following GCE A level courses are excluded from the calculations in this paragraph.

<sup>4</sup> See *Statistics of Education*, 1963, Part I, Tables 14 and 21; and 1964, Part I, Table 7. There was a minor change in the compilation of the statistics between the two years. For January 1964 a definition of the year of a sixth-form course was given (see Note 2 to Table 84); for January 1963 no definition was given.

being off-set by a rise in direct-grant schools. But it does not follow that the same pattern applies among those third-year sixth formers seeking entrance to Oxford or Cambridge.

193. A different approach to the question of the balance of admissions is via the concentration of applications and admissions at only a fraction of the schools of any type. Table 88 brings together, for men, the information in Tables 48 and 49 on schools submitting candidates and gaining places<sup>1</sup> with that in Table 84 on total numbers of schools.

**Table 88.** *Schools with sixth forms, submitting candidates for Oxford and gaining places, by type of school. Men: schools in England and Wales*

| NUMBER                  |                 |                            |   |                                       |  |   |
|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| Boys' and mixed schools |                 |                            |   |                                       |  |   |
|                         | With sixth form | With third-year sixth form | With male applicants to Oxford for 1965-6 entry | Gaining at least one place for 1965-6 | Gaining at least three places for 1965-6 | Gaining at least four places for 1965-6 |
|                         | (1)             | (2)                        | (3)   | (4)                                   | (5)                                      | (6)                                     |
| <b>INDEPENDENT</b>      |                 |                            |   |                                       |  |   |
| Number                  | 269             | 167                        | 156   | 117                                   | 83                                       | 71                                      |
| Percentage of col. 2    |                 | 100                        | 93  | 70                                    | 50                                       | 43                                      |
| <b>DIRECT-GRANT</b>     |                 |                            |   |                                       |  |   |
| Number                  | 84              | 83                         | 71  | 65                                    | 37                                       | 31                                      |
| Percentage of col. 2    |                 | 100                        | 86  | 78                                    | 45                                       | 37                                      |
| <b>MAINTAINED</b>       |                 |                            |   |                                       |  |   |
| Number                  | 1,512           | 816                        | 490   | 350                                   | 98                                       | 56                                      |
| Percentage of col. 2    |                 | 100                        | 60  | 43                                    | 12                                       | 7                                       |
| <b>ALL SCHOOLS</b>      |                 |                            |   |                                       |  |   |
| Number                  | 1,865           | 1,066                      | 717   | 532                                   | 218                                      | 158                                     |
| Percentage of col. 2    |                 | 100                        | 67  | 50                                    | 20                                       | 15                                      |

SOURCE: Table 84 and Admissions Office.

NOTES

1. The number of schools with sixth forms and with third-year sixth forms relates to January 1965.
2. Independent schools not recognized as efficient are *excluded* from the number of schools with sixth forms and with third-year sixth forms, but *included* among schools with applicants and gaining places.
3. A very small number of schools in Scotland and Northern Ireland which submitted candidates but did not gain any places may be included in column 3.
4. See Note 2 to Table 84.

194. First, attention may be restricted to schools with third-year sixth forms (in the wider sense), since these schools account for the great majority of boys in sixth forms. This has the effect of leaving out of account over half the mixed maintained schools with sixth forms.

<sup>1</sup> But for schools in England and Wales only.

195. About 90 per cent. of the independent and direct-grant schools submitted candidates; 60 per cent. of the maintained schools did so. 70 per cent. of independent schools and 78 per cent. of direct-grant schools gained at least one place against 43 per cent. for maintained schools. Thus the discrepancy between maintained and other schools is greater in terms of gaining places than in terms of applicants. The discrepancy is even greater when schools gaining a number of places are considered, and details are given in Table 88 for three or more, and four or more places.

196. This analysis is based on one year, so it cannot pick out schools regularly submitting candidates or gaining places with any certainty or accuracy. But it seems reasonable that most schools gaining, say, three places for 1965-6 gain at least one place fairly regularly. And it is plausible that there are other schools which regularly gain at least one place, and that these would outnumber those with an unusually good performance in the year analysed. If so, at least 40 per cent. of independent and direct-grant schools, and perhaps over 50 per cent., regularly gain places at Oxford. The proportion for maintained schools is almost certainly considerably lower. Until the Admissions Office has been operating longer it will not be possible to refine an analysis along these lines.

197. To identify the number of schools rarely gaining places at Oxford could contribute to the discussion of one of the important questions about admissions; namely the extent to which some schools are not at present in the running for places. But it does not contribute to consideration of how many individual pupils choose not to apply solely because to do so would defer for a year their entry to a university.

#### SCHOLARSHIPS AND EXHIBITIONS<sup>1</sup>

198. Details of the proportion of entrance award holders, which has increased for men since 1948-9, and which is now about twice as high for men as for women, have been given in Tables 30, 33, 34, 40, 59, 60, 61, and 74. It was shown that the proportion of award holders among men is correlated with GCE ratings in Tables 60 and 61. Three sets of figures enable a comparison of the degree performance of award holders and commoners to be made. The results are given in more detail in Part III, but Table 89 summarizes the results. The data are provided by the sample of 1958 matriculations, the analyses of four colleges' admissions, and evidence submitted by Mr. T. W. H. Holland. The table shows that the proportion of good degrees (especially of firsts) is much higher for award holders and especially for scholars.

<sup>1</sup> No details of awards won by individual schools are given. Mr. G. D. N. Worswick has published such details in articles in *The Times Educational Supplement*, and in the issue of 4 February 1966 he summarizes his results for 1956-7 to 1959-60 and 1961-2 to 1964-5. See also his letter in the issue of 25 February 1966.

**Table 89.** Degree performance by status as scholar, exhibitor, or commoner

| OXFORD   |                       | PERCENTAGE         |                  |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Source   |                       | Percentage in      |                  |
|  |                       | 1st class          | 1st or 2nd class |
| 1958 matriculations (men)<br>(one-in-two sample)   | Scholars              | 23.2               | 79.4             |
|  | Exhibitioners         | 12.2               | 72.5             |
|  | All award holders     | 18.9               | 76.6             |
|  | Commoners             | 4.8                | 57.6             |
|  | <i>Number = 1,006</i> | All undergraduates | 9.4              |
| 1958 matriculations (women)<br>(one-in-two sample) | Scholars              | 27.8               | 88.9             |
|  | Exhibitioners         | 6.3                | 56.3             |
|  | All award holders     | 17.6               | 73.5             |
|  | Commoners             | 1.6                | 61.0             |
|  | <i>Number = 162</i>   | All undergraduates | 4.9              |
| 1962 Class Lists (men and women)                   | Award holders         | 16.0               | 77.3             |
|  | Commoners             | 5.8                | 60.7             |
|  | <i>Number = 1,896</i> | All undergraduates | 8.4              |
| Balliol admissions 1950-62                         | Award holders         | 30.6               | 80.7             |
|  | Open award holders    | 33.7               | 85.6             |
|  | Closed award holders  | 18.9               | 62.1             |
|  | Commoners             | 8.3                | ..               |
|  | <i>Number = 1,018</i> | All undergraduates | 16.2             |
| Keble admissions 1950-62                           | Award holders         | 9.5                | 77.4             |
|  | Commoners             | 2.6                | ..               |
|  | <i>Number = 1,145</i> | All undergraduates | 3.6              |
| Merton graduations 1951-62                         | Scholars              | 23.4               | 88.6             |
|  | Exhibitioners         | 21.1               | 81.1             |
|  | All award holders     | 22.6               | 86.0             |
|  | Commoners             | 4.3                | 58.9             |
|  | <i>Number = 605</i>   | All undergraduates | 12.1             |
| Wadham admissions 1950-62                          | Open award holders    | 26.6               | 82.6             |
|  | All award holders     | 25.9               | 80.8             |
|  | Commoners             | 6.0                | ..               |
|  | <i>Number = 897</i>   | All undergraduates | 10.3             |

SOURCE: 1958 matriculations: Registry.  
 1962 Class Lists: Holland, T. W. H., *Written Evidence*, Part IV, p. 93 and Part XIV, p. 36.  
 Colleges: the colleges concerned. The data were compiled by Mr. W. A. Hayward and Mr. J. Muschamp.

NOTES

1. Status is that on admission, not that at the time of graduation.
2. The figures for the four colleges include only undergraduates from schools in the United Kingdom.

**Table 90.** *Open and closed college entrance awards. Awards made for entry in 1965-6 to men's colleges*

| OXFORD               | PERCENTAGE     |              |               |            |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------|
|                      | Type of school | Open awards  | Closed awards | All awards |
| Independent boarding | 26.5           | 45.1         | 28.6          |            |
| Independent day      | 11.3           | 3.3          | 10.4          |            |
| Direct-grant         | 18.7           | 25.3         | 19.4          |            |
| Maintained           | 42.5           | 26.4         | 40.7          |            |
| Overseas             | 0.4            | —            | 0.4           |            |
| Other                | 0.6            | —            | 0.5           |            |
| <b>All schools</b>   | <b>100.0</b>   | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b>  |            |
| <i>Number</i>        | <i>691</i>     | <i>91</i>    | <i>782</i>    |            |

SOURCE: Admissions Office.

199. The entrance awards offered by colleges are of two types: open and closed. Open awards (which include the great majority of all awards) are open to any candidate except that many (especially in the men's colleges) are offered in particular subjects. Closed awards are subject to conditions other than subject. The conditions may relate to birth-place, domicile, father's profession, and a miscellany of other restrictions, but the most common condition is that the candidate must have been a pupil of a specified school or group of schools. Not only is there this wide variety in the kind of restrictions imposed, but some closed awards are thrown open if no suitable 'closed' candidate appears, while others are not. There is thus a wide spectrum of closed awards, and the number fluctuates from year to year. The number of closed awards (including those closed as to parentage, area, etc., as well as those closed as to school) won by men candidates for entry in October 1964 was 93; candidates from independent schools won 49; those from direct-grant schools won 26; and 18 went to candidates from maintained schools. The men's colleges offered a total of about 190 closed awards for entry in October 1965.<sup>1</sup> But many of these were either thrown open (and awarded as open awards) or were not awarded, and only 91 closed scholarships and exhibitions were awarded as such. Table 90 shows their distribution.

<sup>1</sup> Some closed awards are offered only once in every two or three years. Such awards have been included as one-half or one-third in calculating the total.