

College, at Fort Collins, Colorado, should prove a valuable aid in the study of county government. The list is an outgrowth of a collecting trip made by Mr. Hodgson in 1934 and 1935 for the University of Chicago Libraries, in which he visited all of the states of the United States and all but two of the provinces of Canada, collecting state and local government publications. A preliminary report on the condition of county official publications in the United States was made before the public documents committee of the American Library Association at the meeting of last May in Richmond, Virginia. The list under preparation is an expansion of the material noted in that report. Libraries or individuals who have good collections of official county publications (printed or in mimeographed form) and wish to have their holdings listed in the final work are requested to correspond with Mr. Hodgson. Because of the few good collections of county materials in the United States, he desires to list even collections of single counties when such collections are available to scholars.

**The Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva.** Several months spent as a guest of the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva have given me certain impressions which might be of interest to some of my American colleagues, and I venture to transmit them in this form.

The Institute was established in 1927 with the financial support of the Swiss Confederation, the Republic and Canton of Geneva, and the Rockefeller Foundation. It is in intimate relation with the University of Geneva, some of its professors serving also in the University. In the main, however, it is autonomous and independent, functioning under an executive council of five members, of whom two are not Swiss. Its co-directors, Professor William E. Rappard (Swiss) and Professor Paul Mantoux (French), are both scholars of eminent attainments who have played, and are playing, conspicuous rôles in current international affairs. The permanent faculty of some eleven men, including the directors, is a strong integrated group containing men with wide reputations, drawn from eight countries.

The work of the Institute is confined to the broad field of international relations, with emphasis on contemporary relations. It aspires to be "a center for the study of contemporary international questions," in their political, juridical, economic, and social aspects. To this end, its faculty has been selected with admirable discrimination. Its activities are centered in an adequate building, near but not the property of the University.

The Institute now has about 80 students, of whom 29 are German, 15 American, 9 Swiss, 7 Polish, 3 British, and 3 Chinese; 12 other nationalities are represented by one or more students. All of the students seem

to handle the two languages of the Institute, English and French, but with varying ease. Most of them devote all of their time to the work of the Institute. The prerequisite of completed study seems to be strictly applied, and hence the students have sufficient maturity to assure the seriousness of their interest.

An American observer is struck by the degree of freedom left to the student. His work is not regimented into courses and seminars, but he is free to attend these exercises, of which each professor conducts at least two each week. Emphasis is placed, not on a student's attending lectures, but on his own independent work. The latter may be directed toward a seminar report, or toward a dissertation to be presented for a degree; in either case, the student works in close contact with a professor. Yet he does so without any necessity of making a grade, for there are no "marks" and no "credit" is given for "courses." My own observation has been that attendance at the lectures, which are indeed lectures and not colloquies, and at the seminars, does not suffer in consequence, either in frequency or in the manifestation of interest. Following a European practice, few of the professors work in the Institute building, and perhaps their consultations with students are not as frequent as they might otherwise be.

In addition to the exercises conducted by the permanent faculty, students have the opportunity of hearing numerous special lecturers invited from other places. In five months of 1936, nine such lecturers visited the Institute; four came from France, two from Great Britain, one from Austria, one from Belgium, and one from the Netherlands. The uniform procedure for these lectures is of interest. Each lecturer remains for a whole week, lecturing on each of five evenings from 6 to 7 o'clock. On Friday evening, the students invite the lecturer to dinner, after which they discuss his theses and pose their questions. The plan works admirably; the lecturers are well-chosen and paid adequate honoraria; interest among the students prompts their regular attendance; and some of the lecturers attract large audiences in addition to the Institute students. In some cases, the special lectures are published by the Institute.

The library of the Institute contains about 8,000 well-selected volumes. It is not open for long hours, and the students depend very largely upon other libraries in Geneva—those at the University, at the Secretariat of the League of Nations, and at the International Labor Office. More attention might be given to supplying students of the Institute, at their own library, with current international documents in French and English; its library makes no effort to supply the English versions even of League of Nations documents. Nor is sufficient attention given to current day-to-day documents, such as are available to students in many American libraries. While Geneva is in many ways a convenient place for the work

of a scholar in the field of international affairs, its various libraries taken together are by no means what they should be for this purpose. Improvement is to be expected, however, with the opening of the new League of Nations library.

The Institute as such issues only a diploma upon the completion of a satisfactory course of study and the presentation of an approved dissertation; but two degrees are conferred by the University for work done in the Institute—a *licence ès sciences politiques (mention études internationales)*, and a *doctorat ès sciences politiques*. Three years of study at the University and at the Institute are normally required for the *licence*, and at least one year of study at the Institute is required for the doctorate. For the *licence*, written and oral examinations must be passed, in subjects rather than in courses. For the doctorate, if a student does not possess the *licence*, he must pass two oral examinations before he is allowed to print his thesis. The printing must be done at the student's own expense, but only after the thesis has been read by a jury of professors and after permission to print has been obtained. Some time after the submission of the printed thesis, the student must defend it orally before a jury of five professors. This *soutenance* is conducted at a public session, which is usually attended by a score or more of the candidate's friends. Having sat on a number of these juries, I can testify to their thoroughness. At such an advanced stage, however, the student is rarely unsuccessful. I have no doubt that while the compulsory printing places a big burden on the student, it protects both him and the professors who pass upon his work against slipshod performance.

The printed theses constitute a contribution to scientific literature of which the Institute may well be proud. A recent thesis by an American student, Mr. O. E. Benson's "Vatican Diplomatic Practice," may be signalized as an example. I was recently delighted to find a valuable thesis on a subject of special interest to me, which had been presented by a student for his doctorate. This led me to inquire about the author, a Rumanian, and I learned that because of his activities as a Communist he had been expelled from Switzerland after his printed thesis had been presented but before he had been given opportunity to defend it. He received special permission to return to Switzerland for three hours only, in order to make his defense. Thereafter he was awarded a prize for his thesis, although in exile. The incident bespeaks a toleration which might well be practiced elsewhere.

I have been interested in the Institute since the first discussions of plans for creating it. Only recently, however, have I had opportunity to observe its functioning and to appraise its achievement. I think it is meeting the aims of its founders in an admirable way and serving a most necessary function. Its teaching is free, its standards are high, its training

is thorough. It has developed an enviable *esprit de corps* among both faculty and students. Most of the students seem to profit from their varied associations in this center of international life, although perhaps more opportunities for international contacts could be given to them in Geneva.

The methods of the Institute are of special interest to one whose life has been spent in American universities. While all of them might not be suited for our mass production, some of them could well be copied in America. For students who seek to find their profession in international law, the Institute, even with its many advantages, cannot replace a well-equipped law school, but I think one need have no reservations in recommending it to advanced students who wish to make a serious study of international relations.

MANLEY O. HUDSON.

*Harvard Law School.*