

So rapid has been the growth of the school of petroleum engineering and so limited the facilities for taking care of the students that it has been necessary to limit the number of students. The school at Norman is the fourth oldest school of petroleum engineering. H. C. George, director of the school, is author of various books, his latest being «Oil Well Completion and Operation», published jointly by the university and the United States bureau of mines



## Petroleum engineering

**T**HE school of petroleum engineering was organized at the University of Oklahoma in the fall of 1924. The first graduating class was in the spring of 1927. The number of graduates each year are listed as follows: five in 1927, nine in 1928, twenty in 1929, twenty five in 1930, twenty eight in 1931, and (estimated) thirty two in 1932.

Enrollment increased each year until in the school year of 1930-31, two hundred and eighty-nine majors (sophomores, juniors and seniors) were enrolled. At the beginning of the present school year enrollment was limited to sixty in the junior class, which has resulted in an enrollment of 189 in the school on October 1, 1931.

The school of petroleum engineering has a two story brick laboratory building fully equipped, and also a tube still and bubble type of refinery of a capacity of 200 barrels of crude oil a day.

The faculty of the school of petroleum engineering consists of: H. C. George, director of petroleum engineering, instructor in petroleum production and oil field management; Fred W. Padgett, professor of petroleum engineering, instructor in petroleum refining subjects; Wilbur F. Cloud, associate professor of petroleum engineering, instructor in petroleum production and oil and gas law; Bennie Shultz, assistant professor of petroleum engineering and superintendent of refinery, and I. F. Bingham instructor in drilling and development.

The school of petroleum engineering at the University of Oklahoma is the fourth school of this kind established in the United States, the University of Pittsburgh, University of California and Stanford university having previously established petroleum engineering departments.

The student body is composed mostly of young men who are residents of Oklahoma, but eight or ten other oil producing states are represented, as well as Mexico, Venezuela, Argentina and the United States of Colombia.

The summer field course which has been conducted during the past two summers, and which will be continued each summer, is especially of value to students from other states and countries who have little opportunity to secure practical experience in American oil fields. During the past two summers students from France, Belgium, Soviet Russia, Canada, Venezuela, United States of Colombia and from California, Pennsylvania and other oil producing states have been registered in this course.

In addition to completing the regular four year curriculum, students in order to receive a bachelor of science degree in petroleum engineering must have also completed at least 150 days of oil field, refinery or gasoline plant experience or two summers in the field course.

Petroleum engineering, where offered at American colleges and universities is usually considered as a branch of mining engineering, and the petroleum sub-

jects taught are classified as the petroleum group of electives in mining engineering.

At the present time about ten American colleges and universities offer major work in petroleum engineering, and about thirty others offer some subjects dealing with the petroleum industry.

The effect of the present depression has been felt in the petroleum industry as in every industry, and while the depression lasts the demand for young petroleum engineers will probably continue to be less than in previous years. However, since the petroleum industry shows promise of soon reaching a condition of stabilization, economic recovery may be rapid and result in a renewed demand for petroleum engineers in the near future.

From the long time viewpoint the petroleum industry offers a broad field for the high type technical man, as the industry is rapidly being placed on a technical and scientific basis.

Graduate and research work in the school of petroleum engineering has been almost entirely in the field of petroleum refining, as industrial fellowships supported by oil companies have been in this branch of the industry.

With the present facilities for instruction in petroleum engineering at the University of Oklahoma, it will probably be necessary to continue limitation of registration on the present basis, of average grades in courses taken during the freshman and sophomore years.