

President W. B. Bizzell, returning from a trip abroad, sees a lesson for America in the conditions he observed. In Northern Europe where education is on a high plane, serious internal strife has been avoided, he points out, while in Southern Europe where educational opportunities have been restricted, nations are being torn by dissension.

## Higher education in northern Europe

By PRESIDENT W. B. BIZZELL

**T**HE traveler to a foreign country sees about what his mental eye has been trained to see, and the knowledge he secures is based upon impressions acquired hastily. An effort to see several countries during one summer makes it necessary to travel rather fast. Under these circumstances, it becomes necessary to concentrate upon a relatively few aspects of the life of a foreign people and to make the most of the opportunities that one has to acquire some definite information within the range of his interests. This is what I attempted to do this summer.

I visited Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Russia, the free City of Danzig, Northern Germany, and England. I had read much of the beauty of the Scandinavian peninsula and the attractiveness of the northern capitals. No one could exaggerate the picturesqueness of the physical features of these countries, the architectural beauty of the public buildings in the capital cities, or the grandeur of the island-studded fiords and bays that one sees as he approaches these countries from the North Sea or the Baltic. But, after all, the physical environment must be seen to be appreciated and I shall direct my observations to other things.

I shall restrict this article to a few of the impressions gathered from observation and reading about higher education in these countries. I had heard much about the folk schools, high schools, and universities, and I wanted to see some of them. I am sure the members of our Alumni Association will be interested in what these people of the far north are doing in the field of education.

My first stop was at Oslo in Norway. This beautiful city was built by the Danish King Christian IV and called Christiania until the Norwegians decided to purge their language of all Danish words. The city is located at the head of the Oslofjord by which the visitor approaches the city from the sea. The resources of Scandinavia, relatively speaking, are very limited. The meager resources have caused hundreds of thousands of the natives to seek a livelihood in foreign countries, many of them having come to America. It has been necessary for the people who remained at home to work hard to earn a livelihood. One feels as he drives through Oslo and the mountains of Norway that these heroic people have made the most of their opportunities. They, like all nations of Germanic origin, believe in education. They have unbound faith in the potentialities of the human mind. One sees the effect of education upon the life of the people everywhere. Their scientists have taught the people how to use the by-products of their limited natural resources to the utmost, and their research workers occupy a place of high esteem throughout the country.

The Royal Frederick University, founded in 1811, is located in Oslo and is housed in a magnificent building near the center of the city. The library, which occupies a commanding location nearby, contains approximately five hundred thousand volumes.

While in Oslo I drove out to the beautiful wooded cemetery to see the last resting place of Ibsen and Bjornson. As I stood there under the shade of the trees,



I thought of the influence that these men had exerted upon the thought of the world. The University has done much to stimulate pride on the part of the people in the men of achievement in every sphere of life. The Norwegians look to their university for intellectual leadership and depend upon it to conserve and direct their intellectual heritage.

The visitor to Sweden is impressed with the same spirit in that country. Sweden has two universities—the University of Lund and the University of Upsala. Upsala was founded in 1477 and is one of the most famous universities of the world. I drove from Stockholm to Upsala and spent a day in this old university town. It is located about sixty miles north of the Capital. Upsala is not much larger than Norman, and the University dominates the life of the city. I have never been in any place where I was more profoundly impressed with the power of cultural tradition. As I walked through the administrative offices, I saw hanging on the walls portraits of men of learning whose names are familiar to scholars everywhere and whose writings and scientific discoveries have influenced the thought of the world. I saw, for example, the portrait of Linnaeus (1707-1778), the great botanist who, by the way, is buried in a village not far away. There is a portrait also of Swedenborg (1688-1772) who taught that it is the method of acquiring knowledge, not its quantity, which determines the effectiveness of education. These are but examples of a hundred portraits that appear upon the walls to remind the professor, the student, and the

visitor of what mighty men have studied and taught in this shrine of learning.

But my primary interest in visiting Upsala was to see the Library. This library contains some of the rarest volumes in existence. One is the *Argentius Codex*, a manuscript New Testament dating from the third or fourth century. Another is Ulfilas' translation of the Bible into Gothic, which is the only copy known to exist. These are merely samples of hundreds of rare treasures that this great library contains and are worth traveling thousands of miles to see.

It may be of interest to know that the students of Upsala are organized into "nations" according to the provinces from which they come. Each nation has its own house and organization for social purpose and is comparable, roughly, to our American fraternities.

While many of the buildings at Upsala are old, there are some that are comparatively new. For example, the *Chemicum* was built in 1904 and the *Physicum* in 1908. These structures are designed to provide adequate facilities for instruction and research, and they are well equipped for these purposes.

Upsala has been called the "Swedish Oxford" but it deserves no secondary connotation. It is a great seat of learning in its own right, and the love of the Swedish people for it and its influence upon every aspect of life in the nation give it a commanding place of its own.

The University of Copenhagen has followed somewhat the same history as the universities in Sweden and Norway. It was founded in 1475 and suffered many of the vicissitudes that came to her sister institutions from time to time through the centuries. The University of Copenhagen has produced its quota of famous men such as Meyer in medicine, Thomsen and Petersen in archeology, Lorenz in physics, and Thompsen in chemistry.

The little country of Finland seems very remote to us in America, and I was surprised to find that Helsingfors is one of the most beautiful capitals in Europe. The visitor is impressed as soon as he lands with the architectural beauty of the public buildings and the attractiveness of the parks. The University was first established at Abo, the old capital, in 1640, but was moved to Helsingfors after the great fire of 1827. A new University was founded in 1918 with Swedish, and in 1922 another with Finnish, as the language of instruction. The language problem in Finland is quite similar to that of Belgium, but the Finnish people have a way of adjusting their racial and linguistic difficulties without serious trouble. The country is proud of its nationality and is determined to maintain its political status. It is utilizing its university as a means of developing all of its intellectual interests, as well as promoting the work of scientific progress.

In all the countries of Northern Europe education is the primary concern of the

people. It is surprising that with the tax burdens that prevail everywhere and the enormous public expenditures for armaments education is not neglected. Through vicissitudes of fortune the people of Europe have learned by bitter experience that enlightened and intelligent citizenship is a nation's best safeguard. The countries of Northern Europe have avoided serious internal strife and made the most of opportunities, while some of the countries of Southern Europe where educational opportunities have been rather restricted are being torn asunder by internal dissension. There is an important lesson for us in this situation. If we would give stability to our institutions and safeguard the interest of all our people, it will be necessary to maintain our schools at all levels of learning. It is well for us to remember that the first line of defense is an educated and enlightened citizenship. Education, therefore, is a more powerful agency of national defense than great fleets and mighty armies. This is one of the thoughts that was impressed upon my mind as I returned from my trip abroad.



#### Degrees earned

Several faculty members returned to the University this fall with new academic distinctions.

Dora McFarland, '21M.A., and S. B. Townes, '23as, '25M.A., both assistant professors of mathematics, completed work for Ph.D. degrees from the University of Chicago during the summer. John C. Brixey, '24as, '25M.A., received a Ph.D. there in June.

The mathematics faculty could almost hold a Chicago reunion, as Dr. E. D. Meacham, '14as, and Dr. J. O. Hassler also hold Ph.D. degrees from Chicago, and Miss Mildred Dolezal, '26as, has a master of science diploma from there.

Hugh V. McDermott, '20as, Sooner basketball coach, received a master's degree at the close of the summer session of the University of Wisconsin.

Ima James, head of the department of physical education for women, completed requirements for a master's degree at New York university.

Ralph Beegle, '22pharm, received a master's degree at the University of Colorado, Boulder.



#### Informal touch

The Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. planned a freshman fellowship club for this school year, to give lonesome freshmen a chance to meet on Sunday nights in homes of faculty members.

Every freshman will have opportunities to attend these gatherings and to meet professors in the informality of their homes, Luman T. Cockerill, Y. M. C. A. secretary, explained.

Such meetings should help to prevent freshmen from feeling dwarfed to insignificance by the size of the student body.

In charge of the program are Muriel Minnick, business administration senior, and William Reiff, arts and sciences sophomore.



#### New lawyers

More than three score members of the University law class of '36 passed the bar examination held in June and were admitted to the practice of law September 8.

The group included:

Samuel K. Abrams, Guthrie; William T. Billups, Oklahoma City; Fred Melville Black, Oklahoma City; Neil E. Bogan, Oklahoma City; William M. Briggs, Blackwell; Howard Lyle Brockman, Tulsa; Floyd Allen Calvert, Jr., Norman; Pierce Edwin Cantrell, Bartlesville; Alonzo Church, Oklahoma City; James Wright Cochran, Oklahoma City; Everett Edwin Cotter, Oklahoma City; Reed Crites, Bartlesville; Del Val Dale, Norman.

Roy B. David, Oklahoma City; Thomas D. Dopler, Louisiana; Mark Draper Dunlop, Norman; Charles C. Dunn, Walters; John Charles Edwards, Oklahoma City; Dick L. Ellegood, Lawton; Ralph Clinton Erwin, Muskogee; James D. Fellers, Oklahoma City; Thomas McKean Finney, Bartlesville; John H. Folks, Norman; Harold L. Gasaway, Clinton; Joe Fred Gibson, Wellston; Tom Ed Grace, Oklahoma City; Kenneth D. Greiner, Stillwater.

Harold Edward Hafer, Chickasha; Charles L. Hale, Jr., Glacier Park, Montana; James C. Hamill, Norman; Harry Woods Hankinson, Norman; Tom H. Hanson, El Reno; William Ernest Harrison, Oklahoma City; Jack E. High, Oklahoma City; Charles W. Jennings, Sapulpa; Martin E. Jones, Tulsa; Wayne H. Lewis, Oklahoma City; Frank T. McGraw, Newkirk; Joshua Franklin McVey, Stroud; George Miskovsky, Oklahoma City.

John Mallory Montgomery, Oklahoma City; Woodrow Bryan Morris, Arkansas City, Kansas; Albert Lowell O'Bannon, Okmulgee; Robert D. Penn, Mentone, Texas; William Knight Powers, Checotah; Thomas M. Pyle, Jr., Oklahoma City; Richard Edward Romang, Fairmont; Joseph G. Rucks, Oklahoma City; George Henry Shirk, Oklahoma City; Harold Rathburn Shoemaker, Haskell; Richard E. Simms, Jr., Lindsay.

Willis Joe Smith, Ponca City; Max E. Stansbury, Ponca City; William Lewis Steger, Durant; Clifford A. Stein, Cherokee; Wendell Graham Stockton, Lindsay; Harlan Tabor, Oklahoma City; Jesse Erwin Taylor, Oklahoma City; Edgar G. Theus, Oklahoma City; Homer Thompson, Oklahoma City; Edgar Sullins Vaught, Jr., Oklahoma City; Allen H. Wilson, Chandler; Cleo Wilson, Tulsa; Charles S. Wise, Sayre; Robert Kirkland Wolf, Oklahoma City; William Preston Woodruff, Stilwell; Ardell M. Young, Fort Worth, Texas, and John C. Zwick, Oklahoma City.