

The college and university departments which are commonly grouped under the single term "humanities" were not specifically provided for in the programs of any of the Rockefeller boards until, in 1924, the General Education Board decided to enlarge the field of its interests by including them, and thus preserve the proper balance in its scheme of educational activities. In view of the redistribution of functions which has taken place during the past year according to the broad general principles of research and education, it seems appropriate to review briefly in this Report the Board's undertakings in this field during the last five years.

The interest of the Board in this field was in fact foreshadowed several years before 1924; for in 1920 a contribution was made to the American Classical League toward the expenses of a conference of classical teachers to consider the teaching of Latin and Greek in the secondary schools of the country. At this conference a plan was developed for a large-scale investigation of the subject by a large nation-wide committee under the direction of the President of the League, Dean Andrew F. West of Princeton University. The objects of the investigation were to ascertain impartially the status of the teaching of Latin in the secondary schools of the United States and on the basis of the findings to recommend improvements in both method and subject-matter. Appropriations were made by the General Education Board in 1921, 1922 and 1924 toward the expenses of The Classical Investigation, which received support from other sources also. The results were promptly published and have been widely distributed, and it is believed that the general adoption of the recommendations has already resulted in

notable improvements in the teaching of Latin throughout the country. The Board contributed to the conference, the investigation, and the publication of the findings the sum of \$132,500.

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The Board's interest in the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago began in 1925, when a five-year grant was made for the purpose of enabling the Institute to train the archaeologists needed for its large and rapidly expanding program. Before this time Professor Breasted had depended very largely upon occasional gifts made to his work by many private donors, chief among whom was Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and such support as the University of Chicago could give. In 1926 grants were made for buildings and equipment, endowment, and publication; and in 1927, for the organization and administration of researches in the field of the Hittite civilization. The grants made to the Oriental Institute in these three years totalled \$780,000. Elsewhere in this Report reference is made to additional grants made in 1928-29 with the object of putting the principal activities of the Institute, and the teaching staff of the Department of Semitics at the University of Chicago, upon a more nearly permanent basis.

Additional grants were made in 1926 for the furtherance of the Humanities - one of \$125,000 extended over a five-year period to the American Council of Learned Societies as a contribution to its current expenses, and several to Vanderbilt University, aggregating \$900,000, as a contribution toward a program requiring a total of \$2,800,000. The objects embraced in the program included an endowment for the development of the University's undergraduate work in the humanities, endowment to enable the University to institute graduate instruction and research in the humanities and the physical and biological sciences, and a building and its equipment.

For the encouragement of significant research in the field of the humanities the Board came to the conclusion, after prolonged inquiry on the part of Doctor Abraham Flexner, that the most promising method would be to make grants of research funds to several of the universities which already had highly developed humanities departments, and to make such grants on the principle of equal participation, the Board's expectation being that after a term of years the Universities would assume for this group of departments, as they have long since done for the natural sciences and the social sciences, full responsibility for the maintenance of research. In accordance with this program three grants were made in 1927, all for a five-year period and all participating: \$250,000 to the University of Chicago, \$507,750 to Princeton University, and \$195,000 to Yale University. The program has since been completed by similar grants made to Columbia University, \$112,500, Harvard University, \$250,000, and the University of Michigan, \$250,000.

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Mention should also be made here of grants made by the International Education Board of \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 respectively to the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, for building and endowment, and to the American Academy at Rome, each appropriation being a contribution of two-thirds of the amount which these institutions had set out to raise for the completion of their programs of development.