

NOTES

FORESTRY AND AGRICULTURE AT OXFORD

A new Honour School of Agricultural and Forest Sciences has been created in order to enable undergraduates, after a three-term preliminary course, to concentrate for a further six terms on the basic principles (physiological, ecological and economic) which underlie the subjects of forestry and agriculture. Those intending to follow forestry as their vocation will be able to select from the optional papers those most suited to their interests. Nevertheless, the structure of the course and the contacts that undergraduates will have with those interested in other branches of biology, will give them a wider appreciation of the problems which concern effective land utilization and provide a broad general education.

For their First Public Examination, undergraduates will normally take the Preliminary Examination in Biology at the end of their third term at the University. They will then enter a two-year course of study in the Honour School. This will include field work in Britain during term and possibly a tour to Europe in vacation. The Final Examination will consist of compulsory papers on Biological Sciences, Soil Science and Economics, together with papers selected from four groups, which allow specialization either in Economics or in the study of Plant Sciences, Soil Science and Animal Science, if desired. By selection of suitable subjects, undergraduates may follow (within broad limits) lines of study which suit their particular interests and future careers, including professional forestry and research leading to a higher degree.

For those wishing to follow forestry as a career, the more specialized and technical aspects of the subject are taught in a one-year postgraduate course leading to a Diploma in Forestry and its relation to Land Management which is available to suitably qualified graduates from Oxford or other universities. In this, students may study in depth the economic, management and silvicultural aspects of forestry, and the application of soil science and biological sciences to forestry.

The Diploma course will not only be suitable for fourth-year students to qualify for a post as a forest officer, but will also provide a high level refresher or extension course for serving forest officers. It will include advanced lectures and classes on policy and planning, management and utilization, and also on applied biological sciences such as genetics, pathology and ecology. Candidates will also be required to submit a written dissertation on a forestry subject of their choice.

For forest officers serving overseas, whose original degree does not qualify for admission as a Diploma student, a Forest

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Officers Certificate course, covering the same field, will be held for a trial period of two years for a limited number of candidates. Anyone who can satisfy the examiners that he has attained diploma standard in one or more of the five subjects will be given a certificate to this effect. Any interested officers should obtain details from the head of their department or service and not from the Department of Forestry at Oxford University.