

ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP PLAN

For the fourth successive year more than 1,000 Scholars from all parts of the Commonwealth were holding awards in the first term of the academic year in each awarding country. In addition 41 senior awards were taken up in five awarding countries as well as 51 Fellowships under the scheme instituted by Britain.

Each year since the inception of the Plan the number of applications for Scholarships has steadily risen so that in this, the tenth year, a record total of 7,706 applications were received in 45 countries. This is a clear indication of the need which this scheme of awards is meeting in the Commonwealth and many countries in their contributions to this Report mention the benefits they are already receiving from the knowledge and experience of Commonwealth Scholars who have returned to take up posts in their home countries.

During the year the number of awarding countries was increased to 17 when the Government of Trinidad and Tobago instituted a Scholarship tenable at the University of the West Indies at St. Augustine, Trinidad, for postgraduate work in Tropical Agriculture. It is hoped that with the impending dissolution of the University of East Africa the Governments concerned will continue to finance Commonwealth Scholarships tenable at the new universities in their own countries.

Interest was expressed at the Fourth Commonwealth Education Conference at Lagos in knowing the number of women participating in the Plan and the statistical tables in Appendix V of the Report show this information. The figures indicate that, as in previous years, women are taking an increasingly more successful part in the competitions for these awards. They constituted 11.4 per cent (11.4 per cent during 1968-69, 10.4 per cent during 1967-68) of the total number of applicants for Scholarships, 13.1 per cent (13.6, 11.6) of nominees, 16.5 per cent (11.3, 15.1) of those taking up awards and 12.4 per cent (10.2, 10.2) of the number holding awards during the relevant first term of the reporting period. It may be noted however that in recent years only a few women have held senior awards under the Plan.

Preparations are in hand for a review of the working of the Plan at the Fifth Commonwealth Education Conference to be held at Canberra in February 1971. The present Report will form one of the working papers and it is hoped it will be useful in bringing out problems for discussion at that conference.