

FRIENDS OF THE HEBREW
UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

Annual Report
1939-40

THE FRIENDS OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

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THE 'FRIENDS', 1939-40

DURING the financial year of the 'Friends' just ended, corresponding almost exactly with the first year of the War, our minds have been occupied here with the shattering events around us. Jerusalem, and its University, receded into the background; in the foreground was the drama of life and death staged round the very shores of this island. To-day, the drama is as intense as it was, but the scene has changed. As in centuries gone by, Palestine, Syria, and Egypt seem destined to be the battleground of Armageddon. Jerusalem is now at the centre of the War, and symbolically enough; for Jerusalem is the key to the spiritual problem of the War. The future of mankind depends to-day upon the survival of the spirit of Jerusalem, enshrined in the moral progress of the last 2,000 years.

It is therefore in no narrow sense, but in consciousness of its full implication, that we turn at the close of this year to examine the work of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. During the War—and after it—Jerusalem University has a vital part to play for the whole of the Near East—and beyond. Its cultural and scientific work give modern meaning to the

spiritual tradition of Jerusalem. Above all, its mere existence is a triumphant rebuff to the powers of darkness that have sought to crush the mind and spirit of the Jews of Europe. We fight for the right of Jews to live and work as free men in any country. But at Jerusalem we see exemplified what such freedom can produce. Here, Jewish scholars and scientists have brought together the finest elements of the science and culture of many countries; but they have fused it all with a burning devotion to their people which has given their work, in every sphere, a character of its own. They realize well enough that in building up the University they are saving the cultural heritage of generations; and in doing this they are creating a centre of light and learning that brings, and will forever bring, honour to the Jewish name.

We read, therefore, with mingled relief and pride, in Professor Bentwich's account, of the progress that has been made at the University in this particular year, making it, as he says, perhaps the most remarkable in its annals. And we are proud, too, that despite all other preoccupations the 'Friends' in England have managed this year to keep their work for the University constantly alive. We have in fact sent the University this year a larger sum of money than in any previous year—£13,211. But more significant, in our view, than the actual sum of money collected and sent to Jerusalem, is the love of the University, and the confident belief in its future, which has been shown by all subscribers, large and small.

We need not recall here, for they are well known, the names of those benefactors whose contributions play such a large part in our yearly effort for the University. Their real thanks must come from the knowledge that they have safeguarded one of the great achievements of our time. We wish to single out, however, three new gifts made this year, all three inspired fundamentally by the same motive. Mrs. H. G. Brackley, daughter of the late Sir Robert Mond, gave a donation of £500 in memory of her father—archaeologist, scientist, industrialist, and a great 'Friend' of the University; Mr. Mark Labovitch, of Leeds, gave an undertaking to subscribe £1,000 in seven years, and Mr. L. M. New a gift of £100 for the Students' Hostel. All three gifts were made because the donors wished to seize the chance, while they could, of being not only 'Friends' but actual Builders of the University. There must be others in England who will feel the same impulse. It is a rare honour to link one's name permanently with something as imperishable as the University—an honour and a privilege. When the thunder of War has died away, the Hebrew University on Mount Scopus will remain, overlooking, as now, 'the city that men call the perfection of beauty'; an everflowing well of thought, learning and rational progress; a glory to the Jewish name; an unfading memorial to all its builders.

P. J. HARTOG, *President,*
On behalf of the Executive
Committee of the 'Friends'

December, 1940.

THE FIFTEENTH YEAR OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

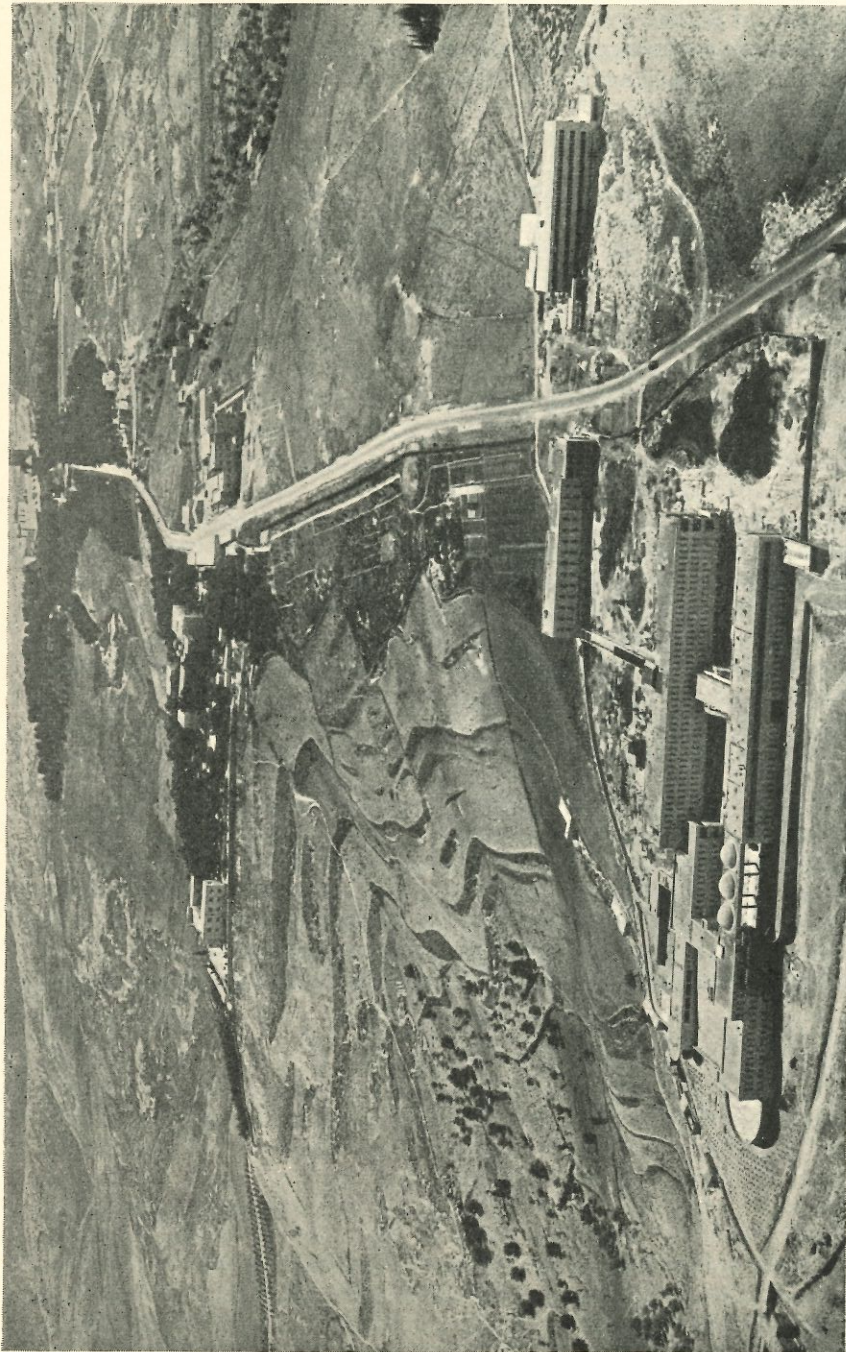
By PROF. N. BENTWICH, M.C., O.B.E.

THE fifteenth year of the University of Jerusalem has been in many aspects the most remarkable in its remarkable annals. It was feared that the outbreak of the War would put a check to the expansion which had been pursued since 1925 year by year. But, on the contrary, the growth of its work, as well in its material and intellectual aspects as in the number of students, has in no previous period been so great. That has been possible only through increased support which has come from the English-speaking countries.

To deal first with the material growth: the year has seen the beginning or the completion of five new buildings, four of them on Mt. Scopus. The Rosenbloom building, which is to house the Faculty of Humanities and is the gift of the late Solomon Rosenbloom of Pittsburgh, has at long last been completed on one side of the University Library. On the other side is rising the building of a Museum of Jewish Antiquities, which is the bequest of a South African Jew, Morris Kootcher, of Windhoek. Just below the Library a Gymnasium for the students has been erected with funds given anonymously by another South African Jew. The Library itself is being enlarged by a new wing, required to accommodate the rapidly growing collection of books, now nearly 400,000 in number. The new wing has been made possible by a gift from Mrs. Vera Salomons, the granddaughter of the pioneer of Jewish emancipation in England, and by a further grant from the David Wolffsohn Fund which provided the money for the original building. Lastly, at Rehovoth the Aaronson Laboratory of the School of Agriculture is rising by the side of the Daniel Sieff Research Institute and the Agricultural Station of the Jewish Agency. The Faculty of Agriculture was established by the bequest of a South African Jew, Isaac Ochberg. But the funds for these buildings were provided from the Aron Aaronson Trust, and mark the continuation of that scientific research into Palestine products which was started before the last war in the plain of Sharon by one of the greatest pioneers of the Yishuv. The scheme for diverting the road which runs along the ridge of Mt. Scopus between the buildings of the University to the Mount of Olives, and turning the present road into a private way of the University, is being negotiated with the Government of Palestine.

During the year the University has been able to spend £60,000 on new buildings; and it is estimated that it has given employment of 25,000 work-days to Jewish labourers, particularly valuable at a time of economic depression in the building trade.

Turning to the intellectual development, which is the more important, the University was able last year to raise the number of exiled professors and lecturers from Europe on its academic staff to fifty. It has found a place also for several refugees in the administration.



In the foreground are the buildings of the new Medical Centre of the University; in the background the older buildings, illustrated in detail on page 1. It is hoped to develop the land between, on both sides of the road, as a 'University City'.

It started the work of the Pre-Faculty of Medicine in the big new Hospital and Medical Research Centre that dominate the Scopus hill. It enlarged also, through another generous gift of the trustees of the Cancer Endowment, the Department of Cancer Research, and appointed a German biochemist of world repute, Professor Neuberg, to be head of the Department of Chemistry in that Institute. It made preparations for the opening of the Faculty of Agriculture, to which students will be admitted from the beginning of the present academic year. Professor Volcani, for years head of the Agricultural Experimental Station, has been appointed to the Chair of Farm Management; and another Chair on a kindred subject has been established by the Jewish Agency and the Palestine Land Development Company in memory of Professor Otto Warburg, who was the founder of the Department of Botany. In the Faculty of Humanities the most striking addition is the establishment of a Chair of Bible which has been filled by Professor Umberto Cassuto, an outstanding authority, formerly of the University of Rome. He is one of four Italian Professors who have been added to the staff of the University since the Jewish mind has been exiled from Italy. The others are Professor Bonaventura (Psychology), Professor Racah (Physics), and Professor Franco (Pathology). The Department of Education has been strengthened by the appointment of two men with long experience of education in the Yishuv, Dr. Ernst Simon and Dr. Rieger. The Archaeological Department under Professor Sukenik has conducted excavations at Tell Jerishe (Napoleon's Hill) outside Jaffa and Tel Aviv, where finds have been made (including a jar with a Swastika sign) going back to the third millennium; and has continued its work on the 'Third Wall of Jerusalem', the discovery of which aroused wide interest some twelve years ago.

The Pre-Faculty of Medicine has not embarked on any undergraduate teaching, as Palestine has not yet any need of more medical doctors. It is mainly concerned with research; but regular courses of lectures are given in tropical medicine and Mediterranean diseases for the many physicians who have settled in Palestine during the last years. The Pre-Faculty also arranged short courses of lectures in war surgery and camp sanitation for medical officers attached to the British and Australian Forces in Palestine.

It is notable that University Extension lecturing for the Yishuv largely expanded during this year. Courses were arranged in different parts of the country for workers there. One hundred and seventy secondary school teachers attended a summer school at the University during the vacation; and it is worthy of record that nearly all the science teachers attended the courses in Bible. In countless other ways the University's influence is extended to every corner of the country. A series of lectures on English life and institutions was given partly by the professors of the University and partly by English officers of the Government. Lord Samuel, who visited Jerusalem in February, gave one lecture of the series on the British Empire. It may be mentioned in this connexion that, while the War made it impossible to appoint a professor to the chair of English Literature and

Institutions, Mr. Mendilow (Lecturer in English) and Miss Metlitzky (his assistant) were most active in developing courses in English language and literature for a growing number of students. Their posts are paid for by the funds of the Montefiore Testimonial Committee, supplemented by a grant from the British Council.

The work of the Faculty of Science on matters affecting the daily life and health of Palestine—and indeed of the whole Near Eastern region, needs no recapitulation. Of new investigations carried out during the year we may mention the extraction of yeast and sugar from orange-peel, the use of saline waters for irrigation purposes, and a botanical survey of the Sinai region—the last two of interest for the possible development of the Negev area. The Turkish Government sent bacteriologists to the Hebrew University to study anti-typhus treatment, and invited Professor Bodenheimer of the University to organize the government entomological service in Turkey.

It is one of the happy results of the truce between Arabs and Jews brought about by the War that during the last year three Arab students registered at the University. In the present academic year this number has increased to 10. During the summer 50 Arab teachers were brought to the University on a special visit and happy relations were established. The Oriental Institute of the University spreads the knowledge of the Arabic language and Islamic culture among the Jewish population. It is noteworthy, too, that a third of the out-patients attending the Rothschild-Hadassah University Hospital are Arabs; and the University recently reopened its malaria station at Rosh Pinah, where a large proportion of the patients are Arabs.

Lastly, the expansion of student life has exceeded all expectation. When in the previous academic year the number of students rose to 850, it was thought that that would mark the peak for some time. But this year, despite all the difficulties, the number of undergraduates rose to 1,200 and there are in addition 65 graduates engaged in research, 20 being graduates of the University itself and the rest gathered from every land. There are two or three from English Universities, and one is a Christian theological graduate from America. Of the undergraduates, a much larger proportion this year are from Palestine itself. Most of the rest, immigrants from Europe, were faced at the beginning of the War with a desperate situation, being cut off entirely from their families and resources. But the directors of the University, particularly Mr. Schocken, Chairman of the Executive, were determined that the University must help them to continue their studies. Special funds amounting to £10,000, were set aside for the leasing of temporary hostels, the establishment of a communal dining room, and of bursaries.

So long as the passage through the Mediterranean was open, a number of German, Austrian, and Czech refugee students in England were enabled to go to Jerusalem. International Student Service, although unable

to maintain its grant for scholarships to special students at the previous level, did make a further contribution for which the University is most grateful. Several old friends of the University, notably Mrs. Vera Salomons and Sir Montague Burton, gave scholarships to assist specially deserving students in need. Even after the Mediterranean was closed, a few refugees who had received the student's visa made their way by a long Odyssey round Africa to India, thence to the port of Basra in Iraq, and overland to Jerusalem.

The immediate needs of the 300 to 400 students who were cut off by the War have now been temporarily met, but the hope has been nursed that the Students' Hostel on Scopus, long desired, might be erected soon. The nucleus of a Hostel fund, partly raised in England, remains with the University, and a striking contribution was made recently by Mrs. Brackley, daughter of the late Sir Robert Mond, as an encouragement to others to subscribe the necessary funds. The plan still needs, however, a few generous benefactors.

Student life has been as vigorous as ever this year. Two interesting innovations were the introduction of compulsory physical training, and the arrangement of regular exhibitions of paintings on Mt. Scopus. A number of graduates of the University opened during the year a Co-operative Laboratory for the preparation of chemical products needed for research and medical work. Many students of the University have responded to the call of the Government for enlistment in the British forces. The academic authorities are giving their support, and, like the Universities in England, have decided to facilitate the graduation of those who return to their studies after the War, and to make arrangements for candidates to take their final examination before they join the forces.

The Rector in the sixteenth year of the academic life of the University is, for the first time, an English Jew, Professor Leon Roth, who was formerly the assistant of Professor Alexander at Manchester University and holds one of the Chairs of Philosophy. He has in the past rendered great service, not only to the University, but to all Jewry by the edition and publication of a series of translations into Hebrew of the philosophical classics.

Above and beyond the specific activities and the extraordinary development of its research and its teaching, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem makes a signal contribution to the life of the Jewish people to-day by holding visibly aloft the torch of science and learning amid the darkness and destruction which have overwhelmed the oldest Jewish seats of learning in Europe. It is a haven of the Jewish mind.

Subscriptions for the present year are now due and should be sent to the Organizing Secretary, who will be glad, upon request, to forward to 'Friends' some of the literature issued by the University, and fuller information about its work.

ACTIVITIES OF THE FRIENDS 1939-1940

The Annual Meeting of the 'Friends' was held in April 1940, at Brook House, Park Lane, London, at the kind invitation of Mrs. I. M. Sieff. It was an outstanding occasion, graced by the presence of two former High Commissioners of Palestine, Viscount Samuel (Hon. President of the 'Friends') and General Sir Arthur Wauchope, who both delivered addresses. Sir Philip Hartog, President of the 'Friends', presided, and Dr. Chaim Weizmann moved an eloquent vote of thanks to the speakers on behalf of a large and distinguished audience.

Apart from this meeting, the main public activity of the 'Friends' during the year has been in the revival of interest in the provinces. In every large centre a Branch of the 'Friends' was reconstituted under active local leadership to ensure that the work of the University was not overlooked during the present difficult times.

At Leeds, where Sir Montague Burton and Mr. D. I. Sandelson are the leaders of the 'Friends', a public meeting was called by the B'nai B'rith and addressed by Professor N. Bentwich and Professor S. Brodetsky. It is hoped that the new group formed in support (of which Mr. L. Zossenheim of Harrogate is Hon. Vice-President, Mr. Henry Freedman, Treasurer, and Mr. A. Conway and Dr. H. Sugaré active workers) will maintain and develop the great enthusiasm aroused for the University during this campaign. Mr. Mark Labovitch gave generous encouragement by his promise to subscribe £1,000, spread over seven years.

In Glasgow a public meeting and a luncheon were held, the active work being undertaken by Mr. J. Morrison and Mr. J. Mellick. Mr. Fred Nettler (who was away at the time) is an old and tried 'Friend', and support is also being given there by Sir Maurice Bloch and Professor N. Morris.

At Manchester and Liverpool meetings were addressed by the Organizing Secretary, and these Branches of the 'Friends', long established, set out to gain fresh support. Professor Bentwich spoke on the University at Cambridge and Manchester, and Edinburgh, Newcastle, and Sheffield were other centres visited.

The most gratifying feature of this work in the Provinces has been the response of certain generous 'Friends' who have promised to make the Hebrew University of Jerusalem a beneficiary under their wills, or to consider establishing a Foundation at the University during their lifetime. Pride in the University and its achievements is now very deeply felt, and it is realized that it can only be built up properly by permanent benefactions.

The Society for the Protection of Science and Learning was able this year to send Jerusalem a large sum of money outstanding from its

special appeal in 1939, under the leadership of the Archbishop of York, for refugee scholars at the University. International Student Service continued to help a number of refugee students at the University, though its funds for this purpose were curtailed through the War. Knowledge of the University's work is growing in this country. An informative article on the Hebrew University by Professor Bentwich appeared in the January number of the *Nineteenth Century and After*, and another in *The Times Educational Supplement* for 12 October 1940.

The Inter-University Jewish Federation, at its meeting in December 1939, pledged itself to raise a regular sum of money through its constituent societies for the Students' Hostel at the University. At Oxford the University Jewish Society held its Annual Dinner in aid of the Hebrew University, the guest-speaker being Professor Bentwich. Other Jewish student bodies have co-operated loyally in this work.

Books, periodicals, and apparatus (for the Haifa Technion) have been presented during the year, and the periodicals have been sent out to Palestine. The valuable library of the late Herbert Adler has been offered to the Hebrew University Library. It comprises the Libraries of three generations of Anglo-Jewish scholars, Chief Rabbi Nathan Marcus Adler, Chief Rabbi Hermann Adler, and the unique liturgical collection of Herbert Adler. Mrs. H. G. Brackley presented a number of books from the library of her father, the late Sir Robert Mond. Periodicals for dispatch to the Library should be sent to the Organizing Secretary at 11 Museum Road, Oxford, or left for him at Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, W.C. 1, if this is more convenient.

The Scopus Luncheons, which had proved so successful in 1939, were abandoned at the outbreak of War; but they have now been revived, since they provide a pleasant, informal opportunity for discussion on all Palestinian, as well as on specifically University topics. The first Luncheon of the present series was held at the Rooms of the Royal Empire Society (by kind permission of the Society) on 12 December, the guest speaker being Professor S. Brodetsky. Mr. Raphael will be glad to send notices of future luncheons to any 'Friend' interested.

The 'Friends' record with deep regret the death of one of their earliest Vice-Presidents, Helena Darmesteter (*née* Hartog), a distinguished portrait-painter, and widow of Arsène Darmesteter, Professor of the History of the French Language in the University of Paris. They have also lost a devoted 'Friend' by the death of Professor C. G. Seligman, F.R.S., who was a powerful advocate of the Hebrew University in learned circles in this country and America. His generous support enabled the University to advance the study of Jewish ethnology, so rich a field for study in the Near East. His widow has made a valuable presentation to the University of her husband's collection of Egyptological books, a large number of archaeological books and valuable sets of periodicals.

SUMMARY OF CASH ACCOUNT OF FRIENDS OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 1940

RECEIPTS				PAYMENTS			
<i>Balances 1st Oct. 1939:</i>				<i>Remittances:</i>			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Deposit Account	74	15	6	1. Hebrew University	13,211	4	8
Current Account	242	1	3	2. Daniel Sieff Institute, Rehovoth	4,448	0	0
	316	16	9	3. Hebrew Technical Institute, Haifa	100	0	0
<i>Deduct, Petty Cash overdrawn</i>	7	8	11		17,759	4	8
	309	7	10	<i>Purchase of Periodicals, &c., and Despatch of Books</i>	38	13	11
<i>Subscriptions and Donations including payments under Covenants and Income Tax Refunded:</i>				<i>Office Expenses:</i>			
1. General	13,889	0	8	Rent	0	0	0
2. Daniel Sieff Institute, Rehovoth	4,448	0	0	Salaries	388	17	4
3. Hebrew Technical Institute, Haifa	8	7	0	Printing and Stationery	32	9	2
	18,345	7	8	Postages	30	3	10
Deposit Interest	11	0	0	Fares and Travelling Expenses	68	18	10
				Telephone and Telegrams	18	3	4
				Sundries	5	13	2
					544	5	8
				<i>Balances, 30th Sept. 1940:</i>			
				Deposit Account	75	6	6
				Current Account	240	2	3
					315	8	9
				<i>Deduct, Petty Cash overdrawn</i>	2	6	6
					313	2	3
					£18,655	6	6

Prepared from the books and vouchers of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and certified correct in accordance therewith.
20th December 1940,
5 & 6 Cork St.,
London, W. 1.

D. ROTH,
Chartered Accountant,
Hon. Auditor.

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

'The University of Jerusalem must not only be the custodian of the religious and literary tradition of the Jewish community, it must advance the frontiers of knowledge in every direction for the relief of man's estate. . . . It is here in this era of injustice and calamity that a fresh announcement may be made of the invincible intellectual resources of your historic race.'—The late RT. HON. H. A. L. FISHER, O.M.

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY stands on the ridge of Mt. Scopus, an incomparably beautiful site, overlooking Jerusalem. Opened in 1925 with two small research departments, it comprises to-day a Faculty of Humanities (including an Institute of Jewish and Oriental Studies), Faculties of Science and Agriculture, and a Pre-Faculty of Medicine.

THE BUILDINGS are spread over an estate of about 65 acres, the beauty of which is enhanced by botanical gardens and the famous Open-Air Theatre. The Library contains over 400,000 volumes. The new Medical Centre consists of a splendidly equipped Hospital, a Research Centre, and Nurses' Home.

THE ACADEMIC STAFF includes men whose work is world renowned. Their research at Jerusalem is directed particularly to problems and studies connected with the Near East. Students may work for the M.A., M.Sc., and Ph.D. degrees.

THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION of the University is entrusted to an Executive Council, whose Chairman is Mr. Salmann Schocken. This Council consults the Senate of the University, and is responsible to the Board of Governors, a body of most distinguished membership, including outstanding leaders of science and scholarship in many countries of the world.

THE BUDGET of the University amounted in 1940 to nearly £175,000. A portion of this was to meet building expenses, secured by special donations, but of the rest only about 14 per cent. was secured by endowments. The University receives no Government subvention, and is entirely dependent upon the support of 'Friends' throughout the world. The English 'Friends' have, during recent years, endeavoured to raise a sum of £10,000 a year, partly by small regular subscriptions, but mainly through larger donations, secured by Deed of Covenant. Subscribers in either form are urgently needed to day.

The photograph on page 1 (reproduced by kind permission of the 'Times Educational Supplement') is of the older buildings of the University. The photograph on page 5 is reproduced by kind permission of the 'Crown Colonist'.