

# COLUMBIA STRIVES TO LIFT STANDARDS IN HIGHER DEGREES

## Stricter Requirements for Graduate History Study Aim to Offset Criticism on Ph. D.

### 'RIGID' TESTS TO BE GIVEN

## University Also Hopes to Dissuade Those Seeking M. A. Because They Lack Jobs

In an effort to forestall growing criticism of the Ph. D. degree and to discourage students who seek a master's degree merely because they cannot find a job, Columbia University has raised its requirements for admission to graduate courses in the Department of History, it was announced yesterday by Dr. Charlton J. H. Hayes, Seth Low Professor of History and chairman of the departmental committee on doctoral candidates.

Only those students who have attained a "B" average in undergraduate work, who have passed a "rigid" English test and who can read and write a foreign language will be permitted to register as candidates for the higher degrees. The new requirements will take effect next semester.

Students working for the doctorate, if they wish to be recognized as formal candidates, also will have to pass examinations in their major subject and in their proposed subject of research. By the end of the second year of study they will be required to pass tests in the foreign languages prescribed with special subjects. For example, students of ancient history will be tested in French, German, Greek and Latin.

### "To Remedy Other Failings"

Professor Hayes pointed out that the new admission standards would serve to remedy other failings in graduate work.

"By discouraging part-time students and encouraging full-time students, we seek to shorten the time spent in obtaining the Ph. D.," he declared. "At present there are too many candidates who regard attainment of the doctor's degree as a life's work in itself rather than as a preparation for a life's work."

He disapproved the quest of the Ph. D. "as a routine step in preparation for a teaching career," contending that the degree should retain its original significance as evidence of scholarly achievement.

"When the graduate school of history was first established," he continued, "we did not contemplate that every recipient of the Ph. D. degree would enter teaching. The degree was, and should be, considered as an award to which any person in any profession who has a great intellectual curiosity may aspire. Unfortunately, the pressure exerted by the school system in America has forced teachers to strive for the doctorate for other than intellectual reasons."

### Scholarly Writing Demanded

The purpose of the stringent new English examination, Professor Hayes explained, is to eliminate students who "try to write doctoral theses but just cannot write anything."

"Scholarly work is by no means confined to studying; it necessarily includes writing," he said. "Knowledge isolated in a scholar's mind is useless unless it is disseminated. The only way that dissemination may be accomplished is through the use of language, and the student must therefore know how to use English idiomatically and correctly."

The requirement of a "B" average is intended to act as a check on unemployed college graduates who continue their study in a graduate school regardless of their competence, and the foreign language requirement is deemed "essential to profitable participation in the work of a seminar."