THE SCHOOL OF FORESTRY.

The issue by the School of Forestry of a revised prospectus, setting out the changes in the B. For. Sc. degree makes opportune a few comments upon the School and its work.

In the first place it may be said that the re-arrangement of the Degree prescriptions has already had a year's trial, and is proving a definite improvement. The main changes are:—the dropping of the optional subject forest chemistry, as the course is already as full as any student can handle; the making of forest engineering a compulsory examination subject instead of an optional certificate subject; the substitution of the broader B.A. stage I. courses in botany and geology for the previous specialised forestry courses in those subjects; and the moving of economics from the third professional year into the second, thus completing the pure science foundation subjects earlier, and leaving the final year freer for a more adequate treatment and more balanced comprehension of the keystone professional subjects.

The changes were made in the light of five years of teaching under the old prescriptions, and aimed at eliminating two defects which had become apparent, first the cramping effect of the specialised botany course, which was proving inadequate as a sound preparation for ecology and taxonomy, and second, the serious over-loading of the final year when economics not only took much time that should have been devoted to final professional subjects and to special study, but came too late in the course to enable students to grasp the fundamental principles of forest management.

The experience of the new arrangement during the present year indicates that the changes will have the desired effect.

In the training of professional foresters a fair measure of success has been achieved, and it may be claimed that the training given seems to be meeting requirements. Early graduates are already proving themselves as assets to the profession. The School is deeply grateful to its external examiners for their co-operation in broadening the scope of the examinations, and in maintaining a desirably high standard of attainment. It is suggested, however, that perhaps a somewhat closer contact between the examiners and the lecturers, and among the examiners themselves, might increase the effectiveness of the external system, and
at the same time ensure an adequate treatment by both lec­
turer and examiner together with a more uniform system
of marking. There are provisions toward this end in the
University regulations which might perhaps be more fully
availed of.

The warmest appreciation is also expressed for the
way in which all organisations, particularly the State For­
est Service but also local bodies and private firms, have
endeavoured through critical times of retrenchment and
curtailment to find some form of employment for the recent
graduates. So well has this been done that no graduate
is at present without work of some kind. In fact at the
moment of writing we have offers to place in temporary
and semi-permanent work considerably more than the
number of graduates finishing. It is difficult to express
the gratitude of the staff and students of the school for
such timely co-operation. We trust that all who have ex­tended themselves on this behalf will feel that the services
rendered have been worth while.

In view of the large part which forestry must play in
New Zealand's destiny, and of the magnitude of the prob­
lems that confront us in establishing an ordered and efficient
forestry practice in this country we have no hesitation in re­
commending forestry as a profession offering scope and op­
portunity to suitable men. By the end of a four year course,
begun now, the depression will, we trust, be a thing of the
past, and we shall be facing a critical period of reorienta­
tion and organisation which will call for the highest effici­
cy in personnel. The School of Forestry will do its best to
send forward only suitable men, well prepared in the ground
work of their profession. It would ask in return that the
graduate be accepted perhaps more readily than in the past,
as an asset of potential value in any organisation; but in
particular it is asked that members of the old school al­
yready in the profession should realise the present limita­
tions as well as the ultimate value of the newly fledged
University graduate. There are grounds for belief that
while professional ability has been neglected and unused,
there are many more cases where too much has been ex­
pected, with resulting disappointment.