

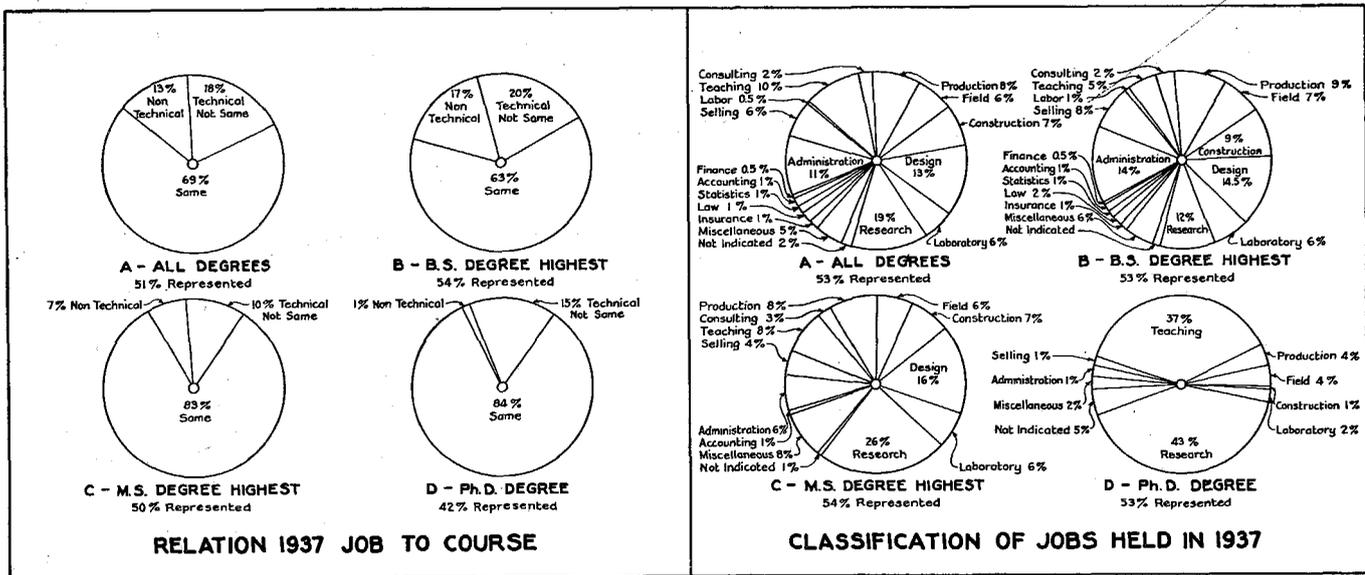
PARTIAL RESULTS OF THE 1937 ALUMNI SURVEY

By DONALD S. CLARK, '29, M.S., '30, PH.D., '34

Director of Placements

In April, 1937, a questionnaire was sent to all men who had received degrees from the California Institute of Technology during the period 1911 to 1936 inclusive. Within this period 1,872 individuals received degrees. Of these, 1,274 men received the B.S. degree without pursuing graduate work; 329

As a result of the survey much information has been accumulated, all of which it is impossible to set forth in these pages. The Editor of the Alumni Review has therefore selected certain charts and graphs which he believes will be of greatest interest to the Alumni.



men received the M.S. degree subsequent to their Baccalaureate degree; and 269 Ph.D. degrees were conferred. Some of these men were deceased, and the whereabouts of others was not known. Therefore, a total of 1,730 questionnaires were mailed. The statistics on the response to this survey are given in the following table:

| | Sent | Returned | % Returns |
|-------|------|----------|-----------|
| B.S. | 1190 | 667 | 55.5 |
| M.S. | 293 | 154 | 52.7 |
| Ph.D. | 247 | 132 | 53.2 |
| Total | 1730 | 947 | 54.6 |

The purpose of this survey was to determine what fields of endeavor the graduates had entered and how well they were doing. The questionnaire included 21 questions. For this survey each individual has been classified according to the highest degree he received from the Institute.

Relation of Job to Training

Many may wonder what proportion of the graduates stay with the type of work for which they were trained in school. This question is considered in the first chart. Of those who stopped their academic training with the B.S. degree, in 1937, 63 per cent were doing work in the field for which they were trained. The detailed record shows, as may be expected, that a larger proportion of the more recent graduates are in the field for which they received training, while the proportion for the earlier classes is less (actually about 50%). The group referred to as "Technical not Same" includes those men who were doing technical work, but in a field other than that for which they received their academic training. The same type of information is given for the M.S. and Ph.D. men. As might be expected, men who receive the higher degrees remain in the technical field.

(Continued on page 9)

1937 ALUMNI SURVEY

(Continued from page 6)

The next item of interest is the type of work in which the graduates were engaged at the time the survey was made. This information is given collectively in the second chart, which is self explanatory. It is of interest to note that 14 per cent of the men who received the B.S. degree were in administrative positions. With the higher degrees a larger proportion of the men were found in teaching and research.

The General Course, which was discontinued several years ago, contributed most heavily to the fields of accounting and statistics. Men in administrative positions pursued the courses in Mechanical, Electrical and Civil Engineering while attending the Institute. Those engaged in construction came principally from Civil Engineering. The principal source of men with the B.S. degree who were in research was Chemical Engineering. Graduates of the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering courses make up a large portion of those who were in the selling field. Most of the B.S. men who were in the field of teaching took their work in Physics and Electrical Engineering.

Starting Salaries

It is of considerable interest to study the variation of starting salaries from year to year. This information is given in the second graph. The results are given insofar as there was sufficient data. The medians were obtained from the distribution curves for each class. The effect of depression is easily recog-

nized, and it may be significant to note that up to 1936 starting salaries had not returned to pre-depression values.

Each member of a particular class is interested to see how his salary compares with the median salary of his classmates. The median salary for each class is presented in the first graph. The range of salaries is from less than \$1,000 per annum to more than \$5,000 per annum. About 10 per cent of the men reporting were receiving in excess of \$5,000 per annum.

The results of this survey seem to indicate that graduates of the California Institute of Technology are in as good positions as graduates of other institutions. When considering these results it must be remembered that the data is only a sample of each class, and whether it is representative is a matter of some speculation.

Consideration should also be given to the fact that the California Institute of Technology is relatively young, and since 1911 many changes have occurred in curriculum and policy. The Institute has been and still is growing, and its reputation has been and is in the process of being made by its graduates. A survey several years from now may be more illuminating and a more accurate representation of progress.

Appreciation is extended to the alumni who so willingly filled out and returned the questionnaires, thus making this survey possible.

