

Financial Support of the University

The National University of Mexico receives its funds primarily from the Federal Government and secondarily from the income derived from student fees, the sale of student work, and from the rents of certain small real estate holdings.

The funds supplied the University by the Federal Government are granted each year by an act of the national legislature as a regular part of the National Budget. As may be noted in the figures quoted below, due to the general necessity for economy in the distribution of the public revenues, the amount of money given by the Federal Government for the support of the University has been decreasing in recent years.

Appropriations for the support of the National University by the Federal Government 1925-1928 (in pesos) 8

<u>Year</u>	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>General Expenses</u>	<u>Totals</u>
1925	2,449,779.60	278,150.00	2,727,929.60
1926	2,723,748.50	248,600.00	2,973,348.50
1927	2,251,953.50	67,400.00	2,319,353.50
1928	2,370,289.80	74,680.00	2,444,969.80

The increase in the total appropriation for the year 1928 over the year 1927 is apparent rather than real; i.e. the added funds granted in 1928 were marked for the support of two new schools (the School of Physical Education and the "Galación Gómez" Experimental School) which were incorporated in the University in that year.

The distribution by schools and colleges of the funds received from the Federal Government in the year selected for statistical analysis in this report (1927) is shown in Table III.

TABLE III

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS BY DEPARTMENTS OF FUNDS RECEIVED
BY THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT -- 1927

<u>Departments</u>	<u>Pesos 1927</u>
Rector's and Secretary's Offices	134,502.50
University Exchange	20,440.00
University Extension	6,935.00
University Libraries	53,290.00
Department of Administration	200,750.00
Preparatory School	319,156.00
College of Medicine	463,002.50
College of Dentistry	110,960.00
College of Chemistry and Pharmacy	197,282.50
College of Engineering	162,242.50
College of Law and Social Sciences	106,762.50
College of Philosophy and Letters	67,342.50
"Galación Gómez" Experimental School ¹	--
Summer School	10,890.00
School of Public Administration	38,142.50
School of Fine Arts	173,740.00
School of Sculpture	16,607.50
Conservatory of Music	137,057.50
School of Physical Education ²	--
Department of Physical Education	32,850.00
General Expenditures	67,400.00
Total	2,319,353.50

1 The Experimental School "Galación Gómez" became a dependency of the University at the end of the year 1927; before this funds for its support came from the Department of Primary and Normal Teaching in the Ministry of Education.

2 The School of Physical Education became a dependency of the National University at the end of the year 1927; before this funds for its support came from the Department of Fine Arts in the Ministry of Public Education.

The funds which the University derives from student tuition fees, examination fees, diplomas, and monies received from the sale of students' work are usually referred to as the University's "own" funds (fondos propios) to distinguish them from the funds granted by the Federal Government. Previous to the year 1916 instruction in the National University was free. In this year, a regulation was made by the Ministry of Public Education requiring all students to pay tuition and certain other fees. The income from this source, however, did not reach an appreciable amount until the year 1924. From 1925 to 1928 the fondos propios at the disposal of the University were as follows:

Income of the National University from Various Sources 1925-1928⁹
(in pesos)

<u>1925</u>	<u>1926</u>	<u>1927</u>	<u>1928</u>
147,310.71	185,631.27	197,961.79	225,177.33

It will be noted that, although the fondos propios have increased markedly in the last four years, they still represent only a very small percentage of the total annual outlay necessary for the support of the University. In 1927, for example, the fondos propios amounted to only a little over 8 percent of the total receipts of the University. In Table IV is shown the distribution of the fondos propios by sources of income for the year 1927. By adding the totals indicated in Tables III and IV, it will be seen that the total funds received by the National University in the year 1927 amounted to 2,517,315.29 pesos.

Table IV indicates that about 13 percent of the fondos propios received in 1927 came from student fees. The various kinds

TABLE IV

SUMMARY BY CONCEPTS OF FUNDS RECEIVED
BY THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY FROM VARIOUS SOURCES
1927

Concepts	Pesos 1927
Registry Fees for Titles, Diplomas, Certificates	4,665.00
Tuition Fees	132,460.51
Special Examinations	11,491.06
Professional Examinations	18,494.44
Fees for Titles and Diplomas Issued	2,585.00
Back-Fees	1,580.00
Receipts from Sale of Students' Work	25,348.73
Income from Real Estate	778.10
Income from Stadium	485.40
Gifts	73.55
Total	197,961.79

Note: In addition to the above-noted total of receipts, the University had at its disposal for the year 1927, from funds left over from the year 1926 and from reimbursements, the sum of 21,256.30 pesos.

Statistics taken from El Esfuerzo Educativo en México 1924-1928, Vol. I, p. 718.

TABLE V

FEES CHARGED BY THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY - 1927
(in pesos)

I: Annual Tuition Fees. II: Regular Professional Exams.
 III: Special Professional Exams. IV: Special Exams by Courses.
 V: Special Exams for Advanced Standing. VI: Certificate Fees.
 VII: Diploma Fees.

<u>Department and Course</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>VI</u>	<u>VII</u>
<u>College of Medicine</u>							
- General Medicine	50	100	150	5	15	5	10
Nursing	30	20	30	3	15	5	10
Midwifery	30	20	30	3	15	5	10
<u>College of Engineering</u>							
- All courses	50	100	150	5	15	5	10
<u>College of Chemistry and Pharmacy</u>							
- All courses	30	100	15	5	15	5	10
<u>School of Industrial Chemistry</u>							
- All courses	5						
<u>National School of Fine Arts</u>							
Architecture	50	100	150	5	15	5	10
Sculpture	5						
<u>National School of Music</u>							
- All courses	30	30		3	15	5	10
<u>College of Philosophy and Letters and Teachers College</u>							
- All courses	5	30			15	5	10
<u>College of Law and Social Sciences</u>							
- All courses	50	100	150	5	15	5	10
<u>National Preparatory School</u>							
Day School	30			3	15	5	
Night School	Exempt						
<u>School of Public Administration</u>							
- All courses	10	30		5	15	5	10
<u>Summer School</u>							
- Courses for foreigners	60						
For resident foreigners per course	10						

Statistics from Noticia Estadística sobre la Educación Pública de México, 1928, p.970

and types of fees charged in the University in the year 1927 are shown in Table V.

The Law which created the National Autonomous University states in article 13 of the Preamble that it would be desirable for the University some time in the future to manage and dispose of funds entirely its own and thus from an economic point of view be entirely independent. At the same time, however, the Law also recognizes that in the nature of the case the economic independence of the University will remain an aspiration rather than a possibility and that the Federal Government for an indefinite period must continue to bear the burden of the financial responsibility for this institution. Accordingly, in the Law of 1929, the Federal Government agrees to allow the University a minimum annual subsidy of 4,000,000.00 pesos. This subsidy, however, is not to be granted without certain restrictions and reservations referring to the use of the funds in question and to the part which the Federal Executive shall play in their expenditure. Witness articles 15 and 19 of the Preamble, and articles 52 and 53 of the Law:

"...both because of the subsidy which it allows, and because of the ultimate responsibility which the Federal Government bears to the people for those institutions which in any manner it supports, it is necessary that the Government exercise upon the National University such vigilance as may justly safeguard said responsibility."

"...it seems fitting that in the future that part of the Federal subsidy which is not applied directly to scientific investigation or to the aid of those institutions which pursue ends not useful to the University, should be destined to the establishment of scholarships with which the State and the University, determining the requisites for conferring them, may assure the quality of the chosen students and the formation of those professionals and experts which the State itself and in its opinion the collective whole may need."

"The Federal Executive, through the Treasury of the Nation, shall look after the management of the funds with which it contributes to the support of the University, this vigilance being limited to the verification of the expenditures made in conformity with the budgets, the regulations, and dispositions which the University Council may dictate. The Executive may ask at any time for any information that he may deem necessary regarding the financial condition of the University."

"The account which the University must render yearly shall not form part of the general accounting of the Public Treasury, but the system and accounting methods which should be used in the execution of the Budget of the University as well as the modifications which afterward may be introduced shall be submitted for the approval of the Treasury."

In addition to the cash subsidy of 4,000,000 pesos, which the Federal Government proposes to dedicate to the support of the University each year, the Law of 1929 also creates an endowment for the National University. This so-called endowment, however, does not represent the setting aside or investment of any new funds in the interest of the University. By this section of the Law, the University is simply confirmed in the legal possession of all of the furnishings and equipment, buildings and properties occupied by the schools and colleges and other institutions which are incorporated in it. In addition, legal confirmation is also given for the use by the University of fees collected from the students, funds derived from the sale of student work, and rents from a few minor real estate holdings.

Relations of the National University to the Government

Before leaving the subject of the general organization and functioning of the National Autonomous University and passing on to a detailed analysis of the colleges and schools, it is appropriate, perhaps, to consider briefly the nature of the autonomy which has been granted to the University. The question

is: to what extent is the University as organized under the Law of 1929 independent of the Government and free to conduct its own affairs?

On this point, the Law is somewhat contradictory. Following the rather cryptical statements in the Preamble, to the effect that "the autonomy of the National University has been the ideal of the revolutionary governments and of the Mexican University" and "that the autonomy of the University should signify a greater freedom for work at the same time that it signifies a disciplined and balanced liberty," article 2 of the Law states:

"The National University of Mexico is an autonomous public corporation with full legal rights and with only those limitations specified in the General Constitution of the Republic."

This declaration of independence for the University was still further emphasized in the Presidential Message presented to the National Congress at its opening in September 1929. On this occasion, President Portes Gil, in summarizing the meaning and significance of the new Law said:

"The Government has promised the University an annual subsidy ample enough for its present necessities and has established the autonomy of the University with no other restrictions than those which ethical considerations and social responsibility impose." 10

The foregoing would certainly seem to indicate that the University has been granted complete freedom. However, a closer examination of the Law reveals the fact that this freedom is more apparent than real. In the first place, the Preamble itself, close on the heels of its declaration about "disciplined and balanced liberty", goes on to state:

"That it is indispensable that, although autonomous, the University continue being a National University and thus a State institution in the sense that it must answer to the ideals of the State and contribute according to its own nature to the perfection and realization of the same" (article 9) and

"That it is the responsibility of the preeminently revolutionary government of our country to direct the ideology developed by the intellectual classes of Mexico in University teaching, and that the autonomy which is now conferred upon that institution/ will remain under the vigilance of the public opinion of the Revolution and of representative divisions of the Government." (article 19)

In the body of the Law, "the vigilance of the public opinion of the Revolution and of representative divisions of the Government" is given the following concrete and specific meaning:

(a) The President of the Republic will have the right to control the election of the Rector of the University to the extent that the University Council must elect that official from a list of three nominations made by the President. (Article 14)

(b) The President of the Republic is empowered to designate at the expense of the National Budget extraordinary professors and lecturers in any of the colleges or schools which make up the University." (Article 34)

(c) The President of the Republic is furthermore given the right to veto any of the resolutions of the University Council which have to do with:

"...The closing of any college, school, or university institution; conditions of admission of students and validation of studies made in the country or abroad, except when these conditions are not of a technical nature; the requisites provided for the students given fellowships from the subsidy of the Federal Government; outlays of quantities greater than 100,000 pesos at one time or of the same amount in periodic payments which exceed 10,000 pesos yearly, unless these expenses are covered by funds which do not come from the Federal Government subsidy; the Regulations of this Law or modifications of the Regulations which are considered in violation of the Law."

(d) Finally, as has already been noted in the discussion of the financial support of the University, the Federal Executive is charged with the duty of a general vigilance of the expenditure of the funds granted to the University by the Government. And, in fulfilling this obligation, the President of the Republic is given the right to ask at any time for any information that he may deem necessary regarding the financial condition of the University. Furthermore, the University is required to obtain the approval of the National Treasury for the systems of accounting which it uses. (Articles 52 and 53)

The truth of the matter is that the National University of Mexico is, in any literal meaning of the term, not autonomous now and in all probability never will be. Both economic and political considerations would appear to indicate that complete freedom on the part of an admittedly national institution of this sort would neither be desirable nor expedient. Indeed, when the autonomy of the University was being agitated in 1928, exactly this doctrine was enunciated by one of the leading educational authorities in Mexico, Mr. Moisés Sáenz, Sub-Secretary of Education.

"The Ministry of Public Education," said Mr. Sáenz, "recognizes that no state university in any nation of the world is absolutely autonomous -- only private institutions enjoy this privilege, official institutions never. This is true whether one speaks of the National University of Mexico, of one of the American state universities, or of the Sorbonne. And this is as it should be. If the National University of Mexico should become absolutely autonomous, as it has sometimes shortsightedly been advocated, then the Government of the Republic would immediately be faced with the necessity, in order to realize the social aims which its existence presupposes, of establishing a /new/ official university." 11

Comment^{no} on the same subject, an article on the editorial page of one of the leading newspapers of Mexico City pointed out that "so far as the economic liberty of the University is concerned, it is useless to petition for it. Not only is it useless, but it is even absurd... Economic autonomy is created, it is achieved; it is not asked for, neither is it given. To petition for the autonomy of the University and at the same time to expect to continue receiving a subvention from the Government is nonsense... In Roman Law, he who receives a wage...has an unavoidable obligation to be loyal to the one who pays him. And, if he wishes to be independent, the most elementary duty of common decency demands that he renounce his wage."¹²

As a matter of fact, it is interesting to note that the above quoted statements of theory made in 1928 with regard to the autonomy of the University were actually borne out in 1929, when the new Law granting autonomy to the University was put to its first test in the election of the new Rector. The details of this election will be discussed in another place (see below p.) but in passing it is pertinent to refer to the remarks made by Dr. Pedro de Alba at a meeting of the University Council on the occasion of the election. The University Council members, Dr. Alba pointed out, are under an illusion concerning the extent of their authority. They must elect the Rector indicated by the President of the Republic; they must take into account the fact that the State is all-absorbent and tends to centralize everything; that as long as the University is bound to the Government by the umbilical cord of the Budget it must expect to find itself in contempt of court when it antagonizes the President; and that whatever autonomy the University possesses by the New Law is vested in the Academies of

Students and Professors who have been given the right of
 appointing and dismissing members of the University faculty. ¹³

ANALYSIS OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY BY COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

In the following pages an attempt has been made, on the basis of such data as was available, in each case, to analyse the Schools and Colleges of the National University under the general headings of: History and Equipment, Degrees, Entrance Requirements, Courses, Examinations, Miscellaneous Regulations, and General Comments. It was stated in the introduction to this report that the University is at the present time undergoing rather extensive reorganization and the reader is reminded again that much of the material given below in this general section is already, or very soon will be, out of date.

National Preparatory School (Escuela Nacional Preparatoria)

History and Equipment

The National Preparatory School was created by the Law of December 2, 1867, during the administration of President Benito Juárez. Previous to this time, a school serving more or less the same purposes had existed, but the above date represents the occasion of a complete reorganization of the institution after the fashion of the so-called positivistic French schools of that period. In 1910, the Preparatory School was brought together with the various professional schools to form the National University of Mexico. As has been noted above (see p.17), the National Preparatory School was again reorganized in 1919 and only two

years of the traditional five-year course were left under the jurisdiction of the National University. The first three years of the old course were placed under the administration of the Federal Department of Education to form what are now known as the Escuelas Secundarias.

The Preparatory School has, for the last sixty years or more, been located in a building originally planned as a convent and later used by the Colegio de San Ildefonso. The three-storey building is designed in the classical colonial style -- the characteristic feature being a series of patios or open courts in the center of the structure.

In the school proper, there are twenty-eight classrooms with a maximum capacity of sixty students each; two laboratories, with a capacity of eighty students each; and one large assembly hall, seating five hundred students. In addition, the School is also equipped with a small gymnasium, a shower-room, two small rooms for student gatherings, and three libraries.

Two of these libraries are simply a few shelves of books in the chemistry and physics laboratories. The main library is located on the ground floor in what was originally the chapel of the old convent. It contains some 13,312 books which have been catalogued and an unknown number of uncatalogued books. The library is very badly lighted and the books are poorly and inconveniently arranged. Apparently very little studying is done in the library for it is mainly used as a gathering place and social hall for the students who are allowed to smoke, play games, and make as much noise as they please. Books cannot be taken out except by obtaining special permission from the Administration

of the School. In 1927, 533.30 pesos were spent in the acquisition of some 112 new books. (Table VI , p.57) In addition the library received 10 periodicals at a cost of 106.34 pesos.

The equipment of the chemistry and physics laboratories is inadequate and out of date. In 1927, 300.00 pesos were allowed for the purchase of new equipment and supplies. (Table VI)

Although the building and equipment of the Preparatory School is superior to that of most of the other schools in the University, it still leaves much to be desired. The classrooms are badly lighted; broken windows and doors are very much in evidence; and the laboratories are unsanitary and urgently in need of repairs. One outstanding feature of the School is a very remarkable series of frescoes painted on the walls of the corridors surrounding the patios.

The physical capacity of the School is estimated at 1,800 students. In 1927, a total of 1,479 students were enrolled in the day- and night-schools. The size of the classes varies from 40 to 115 students, with an average of about 60. (Classes in language are somewhat smaller and average about 30.)

Degrees

The Preparatory School has for its purpose to develop in the students an appreciation of general and national culture and to prepare them in special courses for studies in the National University leading to professional degrees. The National University grants the Bachelor's degree to those Preparatory students who complete the courses in Letters and Social Sciences, Biological Sciences, Physical and Mathematical Sciences.

The first course is considered preparatory for the professions of lawyer and economist; the second for doctor of medicine; the third for architects, civil engineers, mining engineers, and petroleum engineers. Any of these degrees are preparatory for the degrees given in the College of Philosophy and Letters. Certificates are granted to students who complete the other courses indicated below. In 1927 a total of 163 Bachelor's degrees were granted in the National Preparatory School. (See above, p.32, Table II)

Entrance Requirements

The student must present application in the form required by the National University, pay a matriculation fee, and pay the tuition required by the regulations (30 pesos in 1927 -- see above, p. 42, Table V). He must also present a certificate of completion of Secondary School studies and be free from contagious disease and physical disabilities which might prevent efficient study.

Courses

Pre-Legal Course

First Year

Hours per week

Economic and Social Geography.....	3
General History II.....	3
Principles of Accounting.....	2
Etymology.....	3
General Literature.....	3
Latin I.....	3
French or English.....	3
Singing.....	1
Games and Sports.....	2
	<u>23</u>

Second YearHours per week

Mexican History II.....	3
General History III.....	3
Latin II.....	3
French or English.....	3
Psychology.....	3
Logic.....	3
Ethics.....	3
History of Philosophy.....	1
Singing.....	1
Games and Sports.....	2
	<u>25</u>

Pre-Social Science CourseFirst Year

Physics II, including laboratory.....	4-1/2
Economic and Social Geography.....	3
General History II.....	3
Etymology.....	3
General Literature.....	3
English or French.....	3
Singing.....	1
Games and Sports.....	2
	<u>22-1/2</u>

Second Year

Mexican History II.....	3
General History III.....	3
Principles of Accounting.....	2
English or French.....	3
Psychology.....	3
Logic.....	3
Ethics.....	3
History of Philosophy.....	1
Singing.....	1
Games and Sports.....	2
	<u>24</u>

Pre-Medical CourseFirst Year

Physics II, including laboratory.....	4-1/2
Economic and Social Geography.....	3
General Literature.....	3
Etymology.....	3
French or English.....	3
Singing.....	1
Games and Sports.....	2
	<u>19-1/2</u>

Second YearHours per week

Organic Chemistry II.....	3
Botany and Zoology.....	3
French or English.....	3
Psychology.....	3
Logic.....	3
Ethics.....	3
Singing.....	1
Games and Sports.....	2
	<u>22-1/2</u>

Pre-Dental CourseFirst Year

Physics II, including laboratory.....	4-1/2
Organic Chemistry II.....	4-1/2
Etymology.....	3
French or English.....	3
Singing.....	1
Games and Sports.....	2
	<u>18</u>

Pre-Engineering CourseFirst Year

Physics II, including laboratory.....	4-1/2
Cosmography.....	2
Principles of Accounting.....	2
Etymology.....	3
French or English.....	3
Constructive Drawing II.....	3
Analytics and Calculus.....	3
Comparative Mathematics.....	2
Singing.....	1
Games and Sports.....	2
	<u>25-1/2</u>

Second Year

Applied Mathematics.....	1-1/2
Inorganic Chemistry II.....	4-1/2
Logic.....	3
Geology.....	3
Economic and Social Geography.....	3
French or English.....	3
Descriptive Geometry.....	2
Singing.....	1
Games and Sports.....	2
	<u>23</u>

Students who have completed two Secondary School courses in English must take a third Preparatory School course in this language, and two courses in French or German; those who have completed two Secondary courses in French must do three Preparatory courses in English.

Pre-Architectural Course

<u>First Year</u>	<u>Hours per week</u>
Analytics and Calculus.....	3
Physics II, including laboratory.....	4-1/2
Economic and Social Geography.....	3
General History II.....	3
Principles of Accounting.....	2
General Literature.....	3
Constructive Drawing II.....	3
Comparative Mathematics.....	2
French or English.....	3
Singing.....	1
Games and Sports.....	2
	<u>29-1/2</u>
<u>Second Year</u>	
Applied Mathematics.....	1-1/2
Geology.....	3
General History III.....	3
National History II.....	3
Free Hand Drawing III.....	3
Descriptive Geometry.....	2
Logic.....	3
French or English.....	3
Singing.....	1
Games and Sports.....	2
	<u>24-1/2</u>

Students who have completed two Secondary School courses in English must do a third Preparatory course and two courses in French; those who have completed two Secondary courses in French must do a third Preparatory course in this language and two courses in English.

Pre-Chemical Engineering Course

Physics II, including laboratory.....	4-1/2
Chemistry II.....	4-1/2
Geology.....	3
Botany and Zoology.....	3
Economic and Social Geography.....	3
French or English.....	3
Logic.....	3
Singing.....	1
Games and Sports.....	2
	<u>27</u>

Pre-Pharmaceutical Chemistry Course

	<u>Hours per week</u>
Physics II, including laboratory.....	4-1/2
Chemistry II.....	4-1/2
Botany and Zoology.....	3
Singing.....	1
Games and Sports.....	2
	<u>15</u>

Pre-Metallurgy, Pre-Assaying Course

Physics II, including laboratory.....	4-1/2
Chemistry.....	4-1/2
Geology.....	3
Economic and Social Geography.....	3
French or English.....	3
Singing.....	1
Games and Sports.....	2
	<u>21</u>

Examinations

Written examinations lasting one hour are given three times a year in each of the classes. In laboratory courses, in addition to the written examination, there are also practical examinations.

General

The total number of teachers giving classes in the National Preparatory School in 1927 was 118. These teachers were paid from 1,095.00 pesos to 3,613.50 pesos per year, depending upon the number of classes given. Only 34 teachers out of the total number on the faculty gave as many as three classes (nine hours) per week. The amount spent for wages and salaries in the school in the year 1927 was 319,156.00 pesos, as compared with 6,639.79 pesos spent for all other purposes (see Table VI).

TABLE VI

DETAIL OF EXPENDITURES BY NATIONAL PREPARATORY SCHOOL
OF FUNDS RECEIVED FROM ALL SOURCES FOR SALARIES
AND ALL OTHER PURPOSES -- 1927
(in pesos)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Yearly Salary per Individual</u>	<u>Total Annual Expenditures</u>
<u>Salaries and wages (Federal Government)</u>		
1 Director of School at 18 pesos per day..	6,570.00	
34 Teachers for various subjects giving classes to three groups of students (9 hrs. at 9.90 pesos per day).....	3,613.50	
25 Teachers for various subjects giving classes to two troupes of students (6 hrs. at 6.60 pesos per day).....	2,409.00	
2 Teachers for Civics giving classes to three groups of students (9 hrs. at 6.60 pesos per day).....	2,409.00	
21 Teachers for various subjects giving classes to one group of students (3 hrs. at 3.30 pesos per day).....	1,204.50	
1 Teacher of Singing at 4 pesos a day.....	1,460.00	
19 Teachers for night-school classes in various subjects at 3 pesos a day.....	1,095.00	
2 Laboratory assistants in chemistry and physics in charge of supplies and instru- ments at 4 pesos a day.....	1,460.00	
12 Laboratory assistants at 3 pesos a day.	1,095.00	
1 Assistant Singing Teacher at 3 pesos per day.....	1,095.00	
4 Prefects at 7 pesos per day.....	2,555.00	
1 Clerk at 7 pesos per day.....	2,555.00	
1 Clerk at 6 pesos per day.....	2,190.00	
2 Stenographers at 4 pesos per day.....	1,460.00	
1 Mechanic to repair laboratory instru- ments at 4 pesos per day.....	1,460.00	
1 Chief Janitor at 6 pesos per day.....	2,190.00	
2 Janitors at 5 pesos per day.....	1,825.00	
2 Janitors at 3.50 pesos per day.....	1,277.50	
8 Laboratory servants at 3.50 pesos per day	1,277.50	
16 Janitors at 3.00 pesos per day.....	1,095.50	
3 Watchmen at 3.00 pesos per day.....	1,095.50	
Total expenditures for all salaries and wages.....		319,156.00
<u>Salaries and Wages (Fondos propios).....</u>	
<u>General Expenses (Federal Government)</u>		
Office and minor expenses.....		1,500.00
Chemical, Laboratory equipment and supplies.....		300.00

TABLE VI (Cont.)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Yearly Salary per Individual</u>	<u>Total Annual Expenditures</u>
<u>General Expenses (Fondos propios)</u>		
Books and periodicals.....		639.64
Building repairs and additions.....		3,421.00
Office and classroom supplies and equipment etc.....		779.15

Statistics compiled from the Federal Budget for 1927 and from figures supplied by the Auditing Department of the National University

Since the reorganization of the School in 1919, a marked effort has been made to improve the quality of instruction by obtaining the services of more full-time teachers and by cutting down the size of the classes. Up to the present time, however, these efforts have only been partially successful. Due to the lack of materials and equipment, many of the experiments in the laboratory courses have to be performed collectively rather than by each student individually. Another difficulty is the lack of textbooks which makes it necessary for the teachers in many of the courses to spend a good part of the class period dictating factual material to the students.

Discipline in the School is maintained (more or less) by an honor council (Tribunal de Honor) made up of members of the faculty and students. This council, however, does not have jurisdiction over cases of cheating. The handling of matters of this type is left to the discretion of the individual teacher and of the Director of the School.

Opportunities for extra-curricular activities by the students are given in various literary and scientific clubs and in the informal and organized sports of the School.

From the foregoing brief analysis and from the data presented in Table VI, it should be apparent that the chief needs of the National Preparatory School at the present time are (a) more full-time teachers better equipped for their job; (b) a better distribution of the funds available for the school -- something is wrong when a school spends 319,156.00 pesos for salaries and wages, and only 6,639.79 pesos out of its total budget for all other purposes; (c) if the school is to continue

to give laboratory courses, funds should be provided for buying equipment and supplies; and (d) more money must be provided for the purchase of books for the library and for textbooks.

College of Medicine (Facultad de Medicina)

Courses leading to the degree of Doctor in Medicine have been offered in Mexico ever since the Royal and Pontifical University opened its doors in the year 1553. In the early days, in keeping with the custom of the time, only materia medica courses were given in the University, the career of surgeon being regarded as an inferior calling suitable for barbers. The Royal School of Surgery was not created until the middle of the 18th century. In 1833 was established a school known as the Institution of Medical Sciences to take the place of the Department of Medicine (by that time degenerate and antiquated) in the old Royal University of Mexico. In the same year, the Royal School of Surgery was made a part of the new Institution of Medical Sciences. In 1842, the name of the Institution of Medical Sciences was changed to that of the School of Medicine, and it is from this School that the present College of Medicine is directly descended.

The College of Medicine has occupied the building in which it is at present located since 1854. The building was originally erected in 1732-36 for the Holy Office of the Inquisition and for many years was the headquarters of that organization. The part of the old Inquisition building occupied by the Medical College was bought in 1854 for the sum of 50,000 pesos. (The Holy Office of the Inquisition was founded by the

Dominicans in Mexico City in 1571. The principal crimes punished by the society were heresy, sorcery, polygamy, seduction, and imposture. In the first Auto-de-Fé, celebrated in Mexico City in 1574, 21 persons perished. The last victim of the Inquisition was the revolutionary patriot and hero General José María Morelos who was shot by the Royalists in December 1815.)

The large two-storey building with its great central patio (now used for a basketball court) is a very fine example of colonial architecture and despite the usage to which it was previously put and its age is still in very good condition. It is perhaps the cleanest of any of the University buildings and is kept in a reasonably good state of repair. To the part of the old Inquisition building originally purchased by the Medical College, the Government has recently added an annex which has doubled the space for laboratories and classrooms available for the school.

The College now has about thirty classrooms with an average capacity of eighty students, rooms for five laboratories (anatomy, microbiology, physiology, histology, and operations), a large assembly room, three club rooms, and a library.

The library is located in a small, badly lighted and ventilated room on the second floor. The books and magazines are kept in an adjoining room and only seniors are allowed in the stacks. Other students may use the books in the reading room or take them home over night. In 1927, 808.25 pesos were expended in the purchase of 117 books and 18 periodicals. The total number of books in the library at that time was 10,717. Most of the medical books are in French and an examination of

the catalogue of the library indicates that a pathetically small number of works have been purchased since 1900.

The various laboratories are poorly and inadequately equipped and much too small to accomodate the number of students which are enrolled in the college. In one case (microbiology) a laboratory with a maximum capacity of 20 students has 150 students in the course for which it is used. The small funds available for the College not only make it impossible to buy new and modern instruments and apparatus for the laboratories but even make it difficult to repair the apparatus which the College now has.

In 1927, the College of Medicine spent, for all purposes other than salaries, 17,361.31 pesos!

The average number of students in the first-year courses is 150 per class, and in some classes are enrolled as many as 250 students. In the upper years, the number of students per class averages about fifty. At the present time, the school is badly overcrowded. Into lecture halls designed to hold 100 students must on occasion be crowded six times this number. According to the estimate of one professor, the capacity of the school is not over 200 students whereas at the present time over 1,500 students are enrolled. (Table I) Efforts have been made to cut down the number of students in the College, but political pressure has been so great that they have proved of no avail.

Degrees

Courses of study in this College lead to the professional degree of Doctor of Medicine and certificates for the profession

of Midwife and Nurse. In 1927 a total of 102 degrees were granted in medicine; 31 certificates in nursing, and 21 in midwifery.

Entrance requirements for the courses in General Medicine are: Freedom from contagious diseases and physical disability that would prevent practice of the profession; and a certificate of completion of Preparatory studies.

Special Entrance requirements for nursing students are: a certificate from the Ministry of Public Education or from a State Department of Primary Education of completion of primary studies; the completion of a brief one-year course in grammar, physics, chemistry, and biological sciences; and to be not less than 18 nor more than 35 years of age.

Courses

General Medicine

First Year

Descriptive anatomy and dissections
Citology, histology, and microscopic anatomy
Corresponding practical courses.
Embryology
General Biology (first semester)
General Physiology (second semester)

Second Year

Applied descriptive anatomy
Dissections for the above course
Special theoretical physiology
Special physiology, practical course
Physiological Chemistry
Practical course, Physiological Chemistry
Microbiology and parasitology
Corresponding practical course

Third Year

First course in pathological medicine
 First course in pathological surgery
 Pathological physiology
 Propedeutical Clinic, medicine
 Propedeutical Clinic, surgery
 Pathological anatomy
 Pathological anatomy, practical course

Fourth Year

Second course in pathological medicine
 Second course in pathological surgery
 Therapeutic medicine
 Therapeutic medicine, practical course
 Physiotherapy
 Therapeutic surgery and operations on cadavers
 First course of medical clinic
 First course of surgical clinic

Fifth Year

Third course in pathological medicine
 Third course in pathological surgery
 General pathology
 Hygiene
 Hygiene, practical course
 Obstetrical theory and Child-Care
 Second course of medical clinic
 Second course of surgical clinic
 Legal medicine
 Corresponding practical courses

Intern Year

Third course of medical clinic
 Third course of surgical clinic
 Obstetrical clinic
 Ophthalmic clinic (one semester)
 Dermatological clinic (one semester)
 Psychiatric clinic
 Pre- and post-operation therapeutical clinic (one semester)

NursingFirst Year

First course in theory of nursing
 Nursing of medical patients

Second Year

Second course in theory of nursing
Care of surgical patients

Midwifery

Courses for the first two years are the same as those listed above under Nursing.

Third Year

First course in obstetrical theory
First course in obstetrical clinic

Fourth Year

Second course in obstetrical theory and child-care
Second course in obstetrical clinic

Examination Requirements for Courses

Examinations in the individual courses are oral and are given once a year before a jury of three members of the faculty. They are usually both practical and theoretical examinations and may last anywhere from fifteen minutes for students known to be well qualified to an indefinite period for those students whose attendance record is poor. Written examinations are not given in the courses because (so the writer was informed by one of the members of the faculty) it is almost impossible to prevent the students from cheating and because the students claim that there is much more opportunity for the professors to display favoritism in a written examination than in an oral examination given in the presence of three judges.

Degree and Certificate Examinations

Candidates, having completed the courses of studies

prescribed and served the intern year necessary for doctors or the six-month intern period required of nurses and midwives, will comply with the following requirements:

Candidates for the degree of Doctor of Medicine must take and be approved in a general examination which will include a written examination, an examination in theory or theory and practice, and in practice methods. The first will be a thesis the subject of which will be selected by the student. When submitted to the members of the Examination Board they will decide at their first meeting whether or not it is acceptable. The examination in theory or practice and theory will be on any subject of descriptive anatomy, physiology, internal and external pathology, therapeutical medicine, surgery, hygiene, or obstetrics; and, also, ordinary laboratory, operating, or dissection demonstration may be required of the candidate. The practice examination will consist of the diagnosis, prescription, and treatment by the candidate of a medical, a surgical, and an obstetrical case.

These latter two examinations will be given together. The candidate whose written thesis has not been accepted may take these examinations; with the obligation, however, to present a new written examination at a later date. On the other hand, the candidate whose written examination has been accepted, but who fails the examinations in theory or practice and theory is obligated to take again only the examinations in which he has failed.

Candidates for the certificate in nursing must have attended during their two years of study the corresponding

medical and surgical clinics and must pass an examination in general practice and theory.

Candidates for the midwifery certificate must pass an examination in general practice-theory.

Students of this College who are candidates for the degree of homeopathy will study materia medica and homeopathic therapy and general pathology instead of therapeutic medicine and the corresponding practice, the former subjects being taught by homeopathic professors.

Miscellaneous Regulations

Instruction of students will be given in the College, in the Free College Dispensaries, in the Free Public Hospitals and Dispensaries, and in other public institutions. Private institutions may also be used when offered, subject to the approval of the Director of the College.

The professional course leading to the degree of Doctor of Medicine requires five years of study and an obligatory sixth year as intern. For women students the period of internship is six months.

No student may be inscribed in second-semester courses unless he has passed more than half of his studies for the first semester.

Certain courses may not be taken until preparatory studies, to be determined by the Board of Directors, have been completed.

When a student has failed three times in a course, or when without justified cause he has not been present at ordinary

examination periods, he cannot be inscribed again in the course.

General

There are at present no full-time professors in the College of Medicine. Most of the teachers give three one-hour classes a week and a few teach one hour each day. In 1927, the former received six pesos a day or 2,409.00 pesos a year, and the latter four pesos per day or 1,460.00 pesos per year. (Table VII) The total expenditures for salaries and wages in 1927 in the College of Medicine were 463,544.50 pesos, (Table VII), as compared with 17,361.31 spent for all other purposes.

Although officially all teachers are supposed to be of the same grade, nevertheless in recent years there has grown up in the school a distinction between professors of theory, professors of theory and practice, and professors in charge of a clinic. The last mentioned are considered the highest rank. There are also two classes of assistants: those who receive a salary for their services and those who do not receive any remuneration. In 1927 the total number of members of the faculty of the College of Medicine, including both professors and assistants, was 249.

The methods of instruction used in the College of Medicine are those common to an institution of this sort and are generally believed to be of an efficient character. Due, however, to the lack of textbooks, library facilities, and to the general overcrowding of the school, some of the teachers

TABLE VII

DETAIL OF EXPENDITURES BY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
OF FUNDS RECEIVED FROM ALL SOURCES FOR SALARIES AND
ALL OTHER PURPOSES -- 1927
(in pesos)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Yearly Salary per Individual</u>	<u>Total Annual Expenditure</u>
<u>Salaries and Wages (Federal Government)</u>		
1 Director at 15 pesos per day.....	5,475.00	
5 Chiefs of Departments (anatomy, histology, biology, medicine, surgery and obstetrics) at 9.00 pesos a day.....	3,285.00	
2 Professorial inspectors of interns at 7.50 pesos per day.....	2,737.50	
2 Assistants to the Director at 7.50 pesos a day.....	2,737.50	
51 Professors in various subjects at 6.00 pesos per day.....	2,190.00	
3 Chiefs of Laboratories at 6.00 pesos a day..	2,190.00	
23 Professors in various subjects at 5.00 pesos per day.....	1,825.00	
9 Professors in various subjects at 5.00 pesos per day.....	1,825.00	
21 Professors in various subjects at 4.00 pesos per day.....	1,460.00	
1 Pharmacy teacher for the free dispensary of the school at 6.00 pesos per day.....	2,190.00	
4 Assistants in operations at 3.50 pesos a day..	1,277.50	
4 Tutors in descriptive anatomy at 3.50 pesos a day.....	1,277.50	
23 Assistants in the first and second courses of anatomy, physiology, surgery, etc. at 3.50 pesos per day.....	1,277.50	
46 Clinical assistants at 3.50 pesos per day..	1,277.50	
8 Laboratory Assistants in microscopy and clinical clinics at 3.50 pesos per day.....	1,277.50	
16 Assistants in histology, embriology, hygiene, etc. at 3.00 pesos per day.....	1,095.50	
3 Assistants in charge of laboratory supplies at 3.00 pesos per day.....	1,095.50	
5 Assistants to Chiefs of Departments at 3.00 pesos per day.....	1,095.50	
2 Assistants in the free dispensary at 3.00 pesos per day.....	1,095.50	
1 Curator of the medical museum at 4.00 pesos per day.....	1,460.00	
10 Nurses at 2.50 pesos per day.....	912.50	
1 Office Clerk at 7.00 pesos per day.....	2,555.00	
1 Clerk at 6.00 pesos per day.....	2,190.00	
2 Stenographers at 4.00 pesos per day.....	1,460.00	
1 Chauffeur at 5.00 pesos per day.....	1,825.00	
1 Assistant Chauffeur at 3.50 pesos per day...	1,277.50	

TABLE VII (Cont.)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Yearly Salary per Individual</u>	<u>Total Annual Expenditures</u>
1 Chief Janitor at 6.00 pesos a day.....	2,190.00	
3 Helpers in clinics and laboratories at 4.00 pesos per day.....	1,460.00	
1 Janitor for the faculty building at 3.50 pesos per day.....	1,277.50	
6 Servants for the operation room at 3.50 pesos per day.....	1,277.50	
28 Janitors at 3.00 pesos per day.....	1,095.50	
Total expenditures for all salaries and wages.....		463,002.50
<u>Salaries and Wages (Fondos Proprios).....</u>		542.00
<u>General Expenses (Federal Government).....</u>		
Office and minor expenses.....		2,250.00
Chemical, laboratory equipment and supplies.....		1,800.00
<u>General Expenses (Fondos Proprios).....</u>		
Books and periodicals.....		808.25
Building repairs and additions.....		963.00
Office, classroom, laboratory equipment and supplies, etc.		11,540.06

Statistics compiled from the Federal Budget for 1927
and from figures supplied by the Auditing Department
of the National University

are forced to spend a good deal of the classroom time in dictating factual material to the students. The character of the instruction given to the internes in the various hospitals connected with the College is said to be of much lower quality than that given in the College proper.

Members of the faculty who have studied abroad hold that the instruction in the College of Medicine in Mexico compares favorably with that in foreign schools of this type. Others claim that whereas this may be true so far as the theory of medicine is concerned the instruction given to the Mexican students in the practice of medicine and in laboratory subjects is markedly inferior to that given in foreign colleges.

Generally speaking, the quality of work done by the students in the College of Medicine is much better than that in other schools and colleges of the University. The medical courses by their very nature tend to select a more serious minded and determined type of student and the traditions of the school are such as to encourage these tendencies.

It would appear that the Medical School at the present time is following a very shortsighted policy. Political pressure and theories about the "democratization of education" have prevented the College from frankly facing its problems: If the Medical College is to fulfill its functions it must either cut down the enrollment or get more money. The economic situation of the National Government in Mexico being what it is at the present time, the former course of action seems to be the one indicated.