The President Speaks

By Dr. George L. Cross

In this article President Cross explains the system used by the Admissions Board in selecting students to attend the University School of Medicine. The President lists scholastic requirements of the school, and also points out that the University school is not alone in its problem of having far more worthy applicants than it can accommodate.

A large number of very able young men and women with good scholastic records have failed to receive admission to the School of Medicine of the University of Oklahoma during the past two or three years. There is widespread misunderstanding as to why this should be true. Statements are loosely made to the effect that admission to the Medical School is controlled by Oklahoma City physicians; that only those who have taken their pre-medical on the Norman campus will receive admission; and that admission may be obtained only through the use of political influence. Fortunately none of these statements is true, but unfortunately facilities for medical education in this country are not nearly adequate to meet the needs or demands of prospective students.

Last spring, nearly 22,000 applicants sought admission to medical schools in the United States. Somewhat less than 5,500 could be accepted. The ratio of applications to acceptances was, therefore, about 4 to 1.

At the University of Oklahoma, about 1,500 requests for application blanks were received from non-residents of the state, and all of these were refused consideration. More than 265 residents of the state applied for admission, and although 177 of these young men and women met our scholastic requirements for admission, only 64 could be accepted. Eighty-two of the 177 had scholastic averages of more than a C in any one of their four years of high school work. The higher percentage of applications from non-residents of the state is evidence of the many letters that come to my office concerning admission and the many communications sent to the secretary of the Alumni Association.

I am devoting my page in the Sooner Magazine this month to a discussion of the procedures used in the selection of the entering class of medical students because I feel that these procedures are rather widely misunderstood.

First of all, it should be made plain that no single individual connected with the University can commit the School of Medicine to admit any applicant.

The first year class is selected by an Admissions Board after a careful study of the qualifications of all applicants, and the decisions of this Board are final. The Admissions Board consists of seven members—four from the instructional staff of the "pre-clinical" years of the Medical School, and three from the part time instructional staff of the "clinical" years.

A student who desires to enter the School of Medicine should, first of all, file a written application (on a form provided for such purposes) with the Admissions Board of the School of Medicine, or if the student is attending a state institution, he is urged to file his application with the pre-medical adviser in that institution. The application form must be accompanied by two certified transcripts of the student's high school and college work completed at the time of filing.

An applicant must be at least 19 years of age. He must have completed at least 90 semester hours of university or college work. However, if he is only 19 years of age and presents only 90 semester hours of work, it is suggested that he should seriously consider the possibility of completing a program leading to the B.S. or A.B. Degree before applying for admission to the Medical School.

In addition to a written application for admission, it is required that all applicants pass an "aptitude test" given by the Educational Testing Service, one in October and one in February. If the applicant fails to take one of these examinations, his application for admission cannot be considered by the Admissions Board.

This is most important since several promising students have failed to receive consideration because they did not make arrangements to take the aptitude test.

The application for admission and the results of the aptitude test are placed in the hands of the Admissions Board. The Board screens out the best applicants' grades in the Medical School are usually much criticized, but Dr. Cross believes that the Board is justified in attempting to avoid this waste.

The age of each applicant is carefully considered. During the past few years, the Admissions Board has received applications from a number of veterans who have, through no fault of their own, lost years through their service in the armed forces. It has seemed only fair to give those older veterans some preference over the younger non-veterans whose work has not been interrupted and who may profitably spend an additional year or two completing their programs for a baccalaureate degree.

Attention is given also to the geographic distribution of the members of the entering class, for it is recognized that the Medical School owes a debt to the state as a whole, and it would be a mistake to admit too many from any one area in the state. Although there is no definite quota as to any number which must be admitted from any particular county or section of the state, there is a limit to the number which may be admitted from any county. By resolution of the Regents of the University dated May 3, 1937, the maximum number from any one county must be limited to 20 percent of the enrollment of the freshman class.

In attempting to accept members of the entering class from different parts of the state, the Admissions Board sometimes faces the difficult problem of having to decide whether a young man with superior qualifications shall be admitted in preference to another with a good record in order to preserve geographic distribution. Although every effort is
Keen--The Friend of Youth

Nowadays there is a good bit of talk about juvenile delinquency and youth problems, but Paul Keen, assistant director of intramural athletics, is one who by-passed the talk and took up the job of helping to direct youth activities. His work with intramural sports would seem to qualify him as a friend of youth, but Keen is not satisfied with a job half done. The recipient of a 15-year veteran's pin for service with the Boy Scouts of America, he serves as chairman of the leadership training program for the Scouts in the Sooner District. As camp director of the Norman Christian Youth program, he supervises their semi-annual weekend camps at Lake Murray.

When Keen speaks of intramurals at the University or of his other youth activities, his eyes fairly twinkle and it is apparent that this is a most vital man. Perhaps his contact with youth makes him that way, perhaps not. It is certain, however, that he has his full stride when he speaks of the intramural sports program.

Keen is not the originator of the set-up. Ben G. Owen, director of intramurals, came here in 1905 and put the infant sports plan into effect. Said Keen, appraising the current program, "His (Owen's) spirit of fair play and sportsmanship and his desire that every boy in school should be allowed to participate has made the program what it is."

And what a program it is! Everything from horse-shoes to touch football, from table tennis to four-wall handball, from basketball to track is offered. All in all, 14 sports are available with seven of them offering doubles competition for a 21-unit program. In addition to Owen and Keen, Dewey "Snotter" Luster, '22ba, '22Law, completes the trio that makes up the intramural staff. His work with the boxing squads is well known.

Keen arrived at the University fresh from triumphs at Oklahoma A. & M. in 1927 without so much as a degree to his name. Two years later he received his first degree from A. & M. and shortly thereafter he married Irene Herron, '36d. His long tenure of office at O.U. had begun. About 600 boys participated in the 1927 sports with eight sports offered. Gradually began the rise to the 5,000 participants of last year.

In 1943, Keen took a sabbatical leave and when he returned he brought with him a Master's Degree from Michigan University. Although he holds no degree from O.U., he is, however, an honorary life member of the University of Oklahoma (Alumni) Association.

Last June, Keen was elected to the presidency of the Norman Rotary Club—a club that won the International President's Award for the fiscal year ending June 30 as the most outstanding among the 68 clubs in District 124. Keen hastens to say that it was not through his efforts at the helm that the club received this honor as he did not take office until after the award was made.

In addition to his other active affiliations, Keen is a member of Phi Delta Kappa, honorary educational fraternity, and of the American Association of University Professors.

Faculty Briefs . . .

- Anita Couch, '39ed, '47m.ed., is now employed as a test technician in the Evaluation and Testing Service at the University of Oklahoma.

- Della B. Ovl, '19a, is on a leave of absence from her duties as assistant professor of modern languages at O.U. to continue her research on Cherokee Indian language. She is living in Cherokee, North Carolina, during her study.

- Dr. William B. Swinford, professor of law at O.U., has been given the title of professor emeritus of law by the Board of Regents. Dr. Swinford came to O.U. in 1924 after teaching at the University of Arizona.

- Dr. and Mrs. Ernest Carson Ross have established a home in Norman following their marriage August 28 in Accomac, Virginia. Dr. Ross is a professor of English at the University.

- Dr. Sherman P. Lawton, University radio professor, will attend a meeting of the Association for Education by Radio in Chicago, October 12 through 15. As regional president of the group, he will serve on the advisory council at the school broadcast conference during the three-day meeting. Dr. Lawton serves as co-ordinator of radio instruction at the University.

- W. H. Carson, dean of the University College of Engineering, is preparing a book on the conservation of petroleum. He made a progress report of the work to the Interstate Oil Compact Commission in New York City, August 30 to September 1. Carson also serves as chairman of the commission's engineering committee.

- There's nothing like getting your teaching materials first hand, believes Francisecius R. Harrison, University assistant business management professor. He inspected the facilities of two midwest air-lines in late August for practical data to be used in teaching an airline management course.

- Dr. Jerome Dowd, professor emeritus of sociology at the University, is the oldest living sociologist in the nation. Now 84 years old, he has been a member of the O.U. faculty 41 years.

- Mrs. Dolly Connally, '26fa, '47m.rnus.ed, assistant professor of music education at the University, has assumed her duties as the new director of the Vesper Choir for the First Christian Church of Norman.

- Carl Mason Franklin, new executive vice-president of the University, has been given the rank of associate professor of law by the University Regents. He will teach a course in international law.

- Dr. William B. Swinford, professor of law, has been given the title of professor emeritus of law. Swinford, who came here in 1924 after teaching at the University of Arizona, holds a Ph. D. from Stanford University.

New Power and Heating Plant

Delivery of bonds covering a $1,800,000 loan for construction of a new power and heating plant has been completed by the University of Oklahoma.

The new plant, planned for the 51 buildings on the 451-acre main campus, will enable O.U. to meet present peak demands for power and heat, improve illumination standards and serve additional buildings now under construction. Capacity of the old plant, built in 1913, is inadequate to meet present needs.