HE reserve officers' training corps was first provided for by act of congress in the summer of 1916 when our country lay under the shadow of approaching war and these provisions were extended by the national defense act of 1920 which devotes about one twelfth of its entire space to this subject.

Since the inception of the corps over 300 institutions have asked for and received units, and most of these units have become increasingly popular with the student bodies as the years have passed, so that the war department will soon find the output of reserve officers from the colleges sufficient to fill the vacancies allotted thereto. As the value of the instruction given in these units has become apparent to college authorities greater credit has been allowed for the work done in the departments of military science, running as high as twenty or twenty-five per cent of total credits required for graduation in such colleges as Princeton, Yale, and Harvard.

The R. O. T. C. was established at the University of Oklahoma in the spring of 1919 as an outgrowth of the S. A. T. C., which had functioned during the war and which was discontinued in all the colleges about a month after the signing of the armistice. At first the Oklahoma unit gave infantry training only, but in the fall of 1919 Major C. A. Baebr arrived at the university and established the field artillery unit. Since that time the professor of military science has been an officer of the field artillery. At the beginning of the spring semester 1924-25 the infantry unit was discontinued and now only artillery instruction is given.

Besides conducting the regular courses the department of military science has taken an active part in college life. It has coached and put in the field one of the best college polo teams west of the Atlantic seaboard. It might be remarked here that the prospects for next year are exceedingly bright for a strong team and a better intercollegiate schedule. The department also stands sponsor for the polo and riding association, giving instruction one hour a week to such women of the university as become members. The riding season closes with a horse show at which cups and ribbons are awarded for excellence in the various branches of equitation. A pistol team is also trained each year and engages in competition with similar teams in other institutions.

Two honorary societies play an important part in the military and social life of the department. Scabbard and Blade, national, is composed of students of the advanced course, and gives the annual military ball in honor of the R. O. T. C. queen and the organization sponsors. Bombardiers, local, draws its membership from the outstanding students of the basic course. Its annual dance is marked by the presence of the candidates for R. O. T. C. queen. Students of the advanced courses act as guides for the new students during freshman week.

The course of instruction in military science, running through four years, is divided into two parts; the basic course and the advanced course, each consisting of two years. The former, required by action of the board of regents, consists of courses in close order drill, gunnery and gun drill, discipline, military courtesy, and sanitation in the first year, and equitation, driving and draft, command and leadership, and topography in
he second year. The advanced course, elective, offers in the first year advanced gunnery, equitation, pistol marksmanship, and communications; and in the second, military history, military law, reserve corps regulations, equitation, tactics, and military organization. The students of the advanced course train those of the basic course in close order drill, and thus obtain the best possible instruction in command and leadership.

Since 1922 the R. O. T. C. unit of the University of Oklahoma has been rated by the war department as "distinguished," a rating which places it in the upper third of all units in the United States.

At the expense of being a bit prosy and of going slightly beyond the scope of the advanced course, students must have four more semesters in attendance at the University of Oklahoma; and the officers reserve corps (O. R. C.).

The courses allotted to the basic course are designed to fit the student who satisfactorily completes them to be a non-commissioned officer (corporal or sergeant) in the organized reserves in case of general mobilization in an emergency. Certificates to this effect are issued yearly to about 300 students. These men are in no sense in the military service, but represent a valuable military asset in case their services are required. Any officer, who during the latest mobilization had to make a battery out of the raw material of the draft, will realize the value of such an asset. At the University of Oklahoma these four semesters afford the student four hours credit toward his baccalaureate degree. The satisfactory completion of the courses allotted to the advanced courses together with attendance at a six-weeks' summer camp at Fort Sill entitle the student to a commission as second lieutenant in the O. R. C. as soon as he is twenty-one years of age. It will be remembered that in the recent emergency of the time devoted to preparation three months were consumed in training officers to take charge of the raw levies. These three months can now be omitted from our mobilization plans. The value of the R. O. T. C. to the nation could be no better summed up than in this statement. For each of the four semesters of the advanced course the student receives two hours credit toward his baccalaureate degree, and for the camp he receives four, making a total of twelve hours for the course. Other advantages accruing to the student who elects to take the advanced course are as follows:

Each member of the first year advanced course holds the rank of second lieutenant and is provided by the government with a tailor-made uniform, (breeches, coat, cap). A belt is lent by the university. This uniform is given to the student upon completion of the advanced course.

Practically his only expense is for books (about $1.00) and boots (about $20). Arrangements may be made so that the cost of boots will be subtracted from his government pay.

The government provides liberal pay for all members of the advanced courses, this being paid every three months. The total amount paid for attendance at college (in addition to pay at camp) is $174.90 per student. Figuring this for five hours a week for sixty-eight weeks (the total number of weeks instruction in the advanced course) each student receives fifty-one cents an hour for each hour of attendance.

Athletes in the advanced course are excused from drill, the same as in the basic course, without deduction of pay.

The government pays transportation to and from camp, all expenses in camp, and, in addition, seventy cents per day.

In order to be eligible to the advanced course, students must have completed with good grades the basic course, and must have four more semesters in attendance at the University of Oklahoma.

Upon receipt of his commission the student for the first time enters the military service. In time of peace he can not be called for active duty except with his own consent for a period greater than fifteen days, and in time of war he can be called only in the grade which he holds at that time. He is subject to the same chain of promotion as an officer of the regular army up to and including the grade of major general. An officer is required to serve a minimum of three years as a second lieutenant, four years as first lieutenant, five years as a captain, six years as a major, and seven as a lieutenant-colonel. With diligence an R. O. T. C. graduate commissioned on his twenty-first birthday can become a colonel on his forty-sixth—a prospect which excites the envy of his regular army compatriot.

Each reserve officer when he accepts his commission as second lieutenant is assigned by his division headquarters to a regiment. Those who take up their residence in Oklahoma are in the 95th division and the field artillery officers are assigned either to the 358th or 359th F. A. Every reserve officer should keep in touch with his division headquarters by personal visit, if possible, if not, by mail. The adjutant of the 95th division will be found at 414 Oklahoma Savings building, corner Robinson and Second street, Oklahoma City.

The chief interest of the new officer is what he must do to become a first lieutenant. The following is the procedure for an R. O. T. C. graduate, as noted in a letter of the Hq. 95th division of May 31, 1929: (partial quotation).

"b. Having obtained a certificate of capacity it is necessary that you have the following requirements:

(1) Three years' service in grade.
(2) x x x When you have served three years in grade and have earned one hundred and twenty hours of credits you have fulfilled the requirements and are eligible for promotion if you make immediate application for same. Any delay in submitting your application works to your disadvantage.

x x x

c. Credits are given as follows:

(1) Army correspondence school work—depending upon the scope of the sub-course completed, from ten to thirty hours.
(2) Troop school attendance—actual time in attendance but not to exceed two hours for any one class. It is the practice to hold each class in attendance for two hours in order that the maximum credit may be given.

(3) Active duty training—one hundred hours for each fifteen day period is credited, and credits accrue at the rate of seven hours per day for a longer or shorter period. (Ninety-eight hours for fourteen day camp).

Officers who will be in the University of Oklahoma next fall, will do well to consult the adjutant R. O. T. C. in regard to getting credit for promotion."