CORRELATION BETWEEN AGES AND GRADES.

The following are the results of an investigation into the ages and grades of the students of the University of Illinois. The data were taken from the records of the registrar and consist of the ages and averages of grades (no less than three grades being considered in any case) made throughout the year 1909-1910 (including the summer session, if attended), by 1306 men and 644 women, all considered in the alphabetical order of their names. The entire number of women enrolled were considered.

The passing grade is 70. Of course, grades given for military and physical training were disregarded because of their invariably high value. All grades below 45 were considered as 45, "failures" as 55, and "absent" from examinations, as 65. The number of grades for each student averaged about 13 or 14. Whenever a student is said to be aged, say 24, we should have in mind for discussion 24.5, for such a student may be anywhere from 24 to 25. It is an interesting fact that for both sexes, cases of extremely isolated and advanced ages showed excellent averages almost invariably. The ages below 31 that occurred for men were 17-30 and for women 18-30. The correlation coefficients between ages and averages of grades were found to be:

$$\begin{array}{lcl}
 & & \left\{ \begin{array}{l} r=0.0938-0.0185. \\ \text{Men} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Mean grade}=79.9870. \\ \text{Mean age}=22.0214+.5=22.5214. \end{array} \right. \\ & & \left\{ \begin{array}{l} r=0.1996-0.0260. \\ \text{Women} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Mean grade}=80.7842. \\ \text{Mean age}=22.2826+.5=22.7826. \end{array} \right. \end{array} \right.
 \end{array}$$

The results indicate that, on the average, age has a little but a very little favorable effect on scholarship between the ages considered. Both coefficients, though small, are well beyond the probable error.

It seems rather significant that the coefficient for women has more than twice the value of the one for the men. This would suggest, at least, that, if age is an asset in scholarship, it is more so for women than for men.

A comparison of mean or average grades results a little in favor of the women, but perhaps not as much as the champions of the women would claim. It is somewhat surprising to find the average age of the women to exceed that of the men, especially in a state university where students of agriculture and law are included in the investigation.

C. H. FORSYTH.

1216 S. University Ave., Ann Arbor, Mich.