GYMNASIUM

McGill for many years used the old M.A.A.A. gymnasium at the corner of Mansfield and Burnside. The building, however was rendered unfit by the construction of the C.N.R. tunnel and had to be demolished. The student activities were then carried on in the M.A.A.A. and Y.M.C.A. buildings under unsatisfactory conditions as to time and facilities. About ten years ago Mr. J.K.L. Ross one of the Governors, offered the University the sum of $150,000 towards the erection of a gymnasium, provided the legacy of his father to the University of $100,000 was added to this amount, and the building be known as the Ross Memorial Gymnasium. Last year at the date of the Centennial Campaign the gymnasium, for reasons which I will now explain, had not been erected. Mr. Ross withdrew his offer adding $50,000 to the amount and placed it in the hands of the University for general purposes.

In 1913 plans for the erection of the gymnasium were studied. The location and relation to the Stadium presented many architectural problems, not lessened by the fact that it was proposed to include in the building or buildings such features as the track dressing rooms, dressing rooms for visiting teams, indoor playing ground, swimming tank and gymnasium, and at the same time to preserve the architectural effect of the buildings as a whole and without impairing the rather fine view of the city from the stadium.

DRILL HALL

To add to the difficulty Lord Strathcona purchased a property on Lorne Crescent and deeded it to the Dominion Government on condition that they erect thereon a Drill Hall for McGill Students. The location being on a sharp incline, was found to be ill adapted for the purpose. McGill therefore approached the Dominion Government agreeing to provide a suitable location for the Drill Hall provided the Government advanced the sum of $100,000 for the building, and it was expected that it could be arranged that the proceeds of the Lorne Crescent property would also be available. The Government agreed to the proposition, provided the payment would not be made during the war.

The amount of $250,000 being rather inadequate for the erection of the gymnasium as desired, it was considered good business to erect a building combining a drill hall on the ground floor on Pine Avenue and a gymnasium and equipment on the floors above, which would fit into the steep grades of the property but would necessitate a separate building for a swimming bath, above which ~~would fit into the steep grades of the property but would necessitate a separate building for a swi~~ might be located the track and visiting teams dressing rooms. The plans drawn and the high cost of building revealed the fact that such a lay-out would cost more than the combined funds, in fact approximately $750.000, cost of building being then at the highest point.