

Some little time ago I suggested to Dean Barton that I should like the opportunity to discuss this matter at your next visit to the College, and perhaps you will recall that in reply to my letter you very kindly consented to do this. The provision of adequate assistance and the considerations of future development of the Physics Department are, I might venture to say, in the category of necessities rather than of remote contingencies.

It may be that my requests are considered to be unreasonable. If this be so, I should welcome the opportunity of submitting them for the criticism of the Physics Department of McGill and also to members of this Staff. I am at present engaged in an attempt to compile the average number of teaching hours per man in each department, in order to illustrate the great differences which exist - differences which have been accentuated by recent appointments.

I hope I do not give the impression of being too vociferous, or that I infringe upon the usual rules of procedure. You were good enough to inform me that you were always ready to discuss such matters. There is no doubt that a frank discussion would dissipate the present feeling of discouragement, and even though immediate relief was not possible, yet the knowledge that the difficulties were sympathetically appreciated would result in renewed enthusiasm.

There is another matter needing immediate attention. At the present moment we have the opportunity of procuring probably the highest grade optical craftsman in Canada for the College at practically no expense. He has agreed to come to this department for \$1.00 an hour for the first six months, in the hope that he will be placed then on a salary basis if he can prove that this venture will be practically a self-supporting one. It is proposed that he should undertake the optical repair work for not only the whole of the University, but also for other universities. I called a meeting here recently to discuss the matter, at which Dean Barton and Mr. Ward were present and they were all satisfied that it would be a good idea. I then wrote to the heads of the scientific departments at McGill and received commendations of Mr. Gowlland (the workman in question) and promises of co-operation. The Medical School in particular, for which Mr. Gowlland has done much work, was enthusiastic over the scheme. I have full details of the scheme, which I could lay before you if necessary. If the matter is delayed too long, there is a danger of losing the chance.

Mr. Gowlland seems certain that very soon the work shop would be practically self-supporting. At present all optical apparatus from the University is sent away for repair, involving much loss of time and expense. We have had great trouble with microscope repair work here, the instruments returning after many months in a condition worse than they were before they were sent. Besides optical work, Mr.