



MCGILL UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

February 15th, 1938.

Mrs. D. McMurray,
Secretary to the Principal,
Administration Wing.

Memorandum

With reference to your memorandum of February 12th and the paper from Mr. H.O. Payne, which I enclose, I would suggest that you either refer it back to me to give a direct answer, or else say something like the following:

"Your paper has been referred to the Physics Department, and they regret to state that in its present form it is, in their opinion, unsuitable for publication, as it reveals unfamiliarity with the literature and recent advances in regard to the subject discussed. While the interest in Physics revealed by the article is much appreciated, it is strongly recommended that the author should endeavour to familiarize himself with the recent advances in knowledge concerning the problems he discusses."

I am afraid that there is no value whatever in his paper, as it contains many absurdities and the main point which he is trying to make appears to be incorrectly developed. He is probably a man who has enthusiastically tried to theorize about matters which require a broader knowledge and higher attainments than he possesses. I always feel that such people should be encouraged rather than snubbed, but sometimes friendly appreciation of their efforts leads to interminable correspondence, and all that happens is that they feel that they have not been given their due, or that others are unable to see the light. We have many such correspondents who write us from time to time.

A. Norman Shaw

A. Norman Shaw,
Director,
Macdonald Physics Laboratory.