

*Greek & Mathematics in
Schools
Prof. Stanley*

January 13, 1931.

Dean C. F. Martin,
Faculty of Medicine.

Dear Dean Martin,

I hope you are pretty well recovered, by this time, and I am telephoning your house presently to see whether I should trouble you by sending this letter.

I have read with interest reports of addresses you have made at one time and another, urging a more humanistic preparatory training for medical students. Also, I listened to Professor Simpson in a recent meeting urge the desirability of Greek for preparing medical students.

Now, for some time past Principal Parker of Westmount High School has been arranging that I go and address the school on the reasons why some boys should begin Greek at school; and Mr. Worsfold came yesterday with a view to the same thing, and also to point out the difficulties of the options at present required by McGill Matriculation. He tells me, among other things, that Chemistry is more popular than Physics because it is easier, and much more popular than Mathematics, for the same reason. In Westmount there is now actually a proposal that if boys take Greek they should be let off Mathematics and Physics and allowed to do Chemistry.

We insist, at present, on Mathematics, and I hope will continue to do so. No Greek professor, certainly, would advocate dropping Mathematics, for some of the most valuable Greek authors simply cannot be read unless one has had advanced mathematical training. Again, for years I have heard Dr. Eve and Dr. Lloyd and Dr. Johnson say that if they could be sure McGill students had plenty of Mathematics at school they would be quite ready to begin at the beginning with them in Science.