

of the departments of work carried on here. Besides the department of Mechanical Arts already referred to, in which the University is especially strong, there is also a good department of Agriculture, the University farm, situated on the hills back of the Campus, affording ample scope for experiments in this line of work. A fine "Insectary," where the student can study the habits of the insects which create such devastation in the vegetation of the country, and a well appointed museum and conservatory add greatly to the efficiency of the Science courses. There is also a good Law School and a School of Pharmacy, but no Medical School, for the lack of hospital practice, which large cities alone can afford, makes it unwise to attempt such work here. The department of Architecture is also thoroughly equipped, and is very popular among the ladies, who find there pleasant and congenial occupation. A new experiment has been tried this year in a School of Journalism, which is doing very good work, evidence of which may be seen in college periodicals, the three principal of which are—the *Sun*, a daily news sheet; the *Era*, a weekly, both literary and newsy; and the *Magazine*, a monthly, of a purely literary character.

We may now consider more in detail the work of the Arts department, in which I am more especially interested. Three degrees are given in this department—Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Philosophy, and Bachelor of Letters, the former requiring the most severe course of study, including, as it does, both Latin and Greek. In its Historical department Cornell takes the lead of all the American colleges; with such men as ex-President White and President Adams at its head, this is not surprising. Much original research has been done in this subject, and the library is enriched by many rare MSS., which it was my privilege and pleasure to have shown me during the Christmas vacation. Besides this, the historical method of study prevails in every department of work here. At the meeting of the Inter-Collegiate Alumni Association, held here last fall, the subject under discussion was—"Patriotism: and how to foster it;" and in all the addresses of the ladies present, great stress was laid upon the study of national history as the best means of creating a national spirit. One cannot fail to be struck by the large place given to American history in this University, and one is forced to ask if Canadian patriotism does not demand some such fostering care. It was pleasing to see this subject referred to in the *McGill GAZETTE*, and McGill called upon to take the lead in this good work by founding a chair of Canadian History. I hope the suggestion may soon become an accomplished fact, and that with it a chair of Political Economy may also be founded. Here the department of Economics is thoroughly well equipped, and has been much strengthened under the able direction of Professor E. Benj. Andrews, who was this year called from Brown's University, Providence, R.I., to fill this chair. The Greek courses have also grown in efficiency under Dr. Wheeler, so that now the advantages here in this department rival those offered by older Eastern Universities, which have long made this subject a specialty. The same is pre-eminently true of

the Philosophy courses, which, under Dr. J. G. Schurman, formerly of Dalhousie College, Nova Scotia, have now risen from the least popular to the most popular courses in the University. His clear exposition of his subject, and fine oratorical powers, make his lectures especially attractive, and his lecture-room is always crowded to overflowing with an appreciative audience. The whole method of work here differs from that adopted in our Canadian colleges, the German Seminary system of teaching prevailing in most of the courses. Instead of our system of lectures, from which the student takes notes, they have besides almost daily recitations, and in the more advanced courses the professor leads a discussion upon the text book studied, and the student is required to take part in it. This method is admirably adapted to bring out the originality of the student and make him think for himself, while it teaches him how to make a critical study of his text books, and gives him greater facility in expressing himself upon any subject. Essay writing forms a large part of every course in the University, even of the Mechanical courses, so that much reading is required of the student. The fine library of 97,000 volumes, which is for reference only, is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, and is always filled with students reading for this department of their work. To one educated under a different system these daily recitations in the less advanced courses are less satisfactory, and bring one back very forcibly to school days; however, they are quite justifiable under this system where the session is so long; time can be allowed for them, and where only term examinations are required of the student, at which a large percentage of the marks are counted from these daily recitations. In addition to all this, eminent men from other places are brought here every week to lecture in the different departments, more especially on subjects of a technical character. However, among these we have had many very popular lectures on subjects of more general interest, by Professor Gildersleeve and Professor Remson, of Johns Hopkins; Professor Bell, electrician; General Walker, president of the Institute of Technology, Boston; and Hon. Edward Atkinson, also of Boston. These lectures are much appreciated by the students, judging by the crowds that attend them.

But I must not close without mentioning specially the admirable advantages offered here for graduate study. Besides special courses prepared for graduates, all the work of the University is open to them, with no charge of tuition fees, the sole expense being for materials consumed in practical work, if the course requires it. The courses in English Literature are especially popular under Professor Carson, who, by his fine elocutionary powers and true poetic insight, opens up the great works of poetic genius, as no amount of commentary or analysis can do, and it is little wonder, therefore, that so many pass by even Harvard to study here. Graduate students are welcomed from all parts, and I trust that McGill may, in future, be yet more largely represented here, until our own Canadian colleges are in a position to offer like advantages for graduate study.

DONALD McFEE.