

ADDRESS GIVEN BY ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR R.R. THOMPSON,  
MCGILL UNIVERSITY, on APRIL 30th, 1926, AT THE ANNUAL  
CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGIATE  
SCHOOLS OF BUSINESS, HELD AT DARTMOUTH COLLEGE,  
HANOVER, N.H., U.S.A.

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President Hopkins, President LeRossignol, Gentlemen:

Before I speak about my subject, may I tell President Hopkins how much the hospitality of Dartmouth College is appreciated. We, at McGill University, are, I might almost say - accustomed to it - we know from past experience how hospitable you are, and what to expect. I, in particular, have had previous experience; and I can assure you, sir, that your hospitality is much appreciated. Further, may I say how much McGill appreciates the thoughtfulness of this Association in inviting her to send a representative to this Convention, and how much I appreciate this chance of hearing these discussions of the problems of Schools of Commerce.

Now, to my subject. I understand that you wish me to tell you about the training given in the School of Commerce of McGill University -- about what we regard as the essentials for a collegiate course in business. Our ideas are probably just the same as your own in many cases -- however, here they are.

Our object is to turn out graduates, who have a mental equipment especially fitted for Commerce, and, also, who are men of culture. We wish our Commerce graduates, in their thinking, to be methodical, painstaking, logical and accurate. We believe that we can give them mental discipline, which will help them to achieve this, whilst at the same time helping them to acquire knowledge which will be especially useful to them in commercial life. ---- But, we also wish them to be men of culture --- men who can take an intelligent interest in and enjoy the fine arts, and the literature of their own and of other languages and countries. --- Incidentally, may I remark that Latin and Greek are optional subjects in our first year. --- We want our graduates to be broad-minded, and to be men who can understand and appreciate great traditions and great ideals.

How do we attempt to do this ?

Firstly, regarding the method of entrance to the University and to this course. This is by Matriculation examination. McGill University is quite independent, so that she can admit or reject according to the rules which she lays down for herself.

The Commerce course lasts four years, and we make it as elastic as possible. In the first year four subjects are obligatory, and two, chosen out of nine, are optional. In the second year two are obligatory and three, chosen out of nine, are optional. In the third year only one is obligatory, and in the fourth year none are obligatory. In the fourth year all five subjects are optional, and are chosen out of eleven. Most of these subjects have prerequisites -- that is to say they are further studies in a subject which must have been taken in the previous years, sometimes in all of them. Consequently, it is usually necessary for a student to know at the start of his University career what his plans are, otherwise, if he wishes to change them later on, he may have to take special studies and examinations and possibly have to repeat a year. To help students over possible difficulties we have a system of Advisers and Advisees.