

Dr. Ira Mackay.

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somewhat neglected through no fault of ours.

May we suggest, then, that the Moyse Hall, or the hall provided for English 2, be furnished with an adequate stage, not elaborate or extravagant, with six or eight dressing rooms, a basement room for storing simple properties, a curtain, lighting facilities, a few "flats" and other simple accessories to which the Department can add from year to year. The dressing rooms could be used as conference rooms for the weekly conferences with Freshmen in English 1 and 2. A moveable "Apron Stage" could be provided at a very small cost, thus making with the curtain down a small Elizabethan stage, or with the curtain raised a Restoration stage. For purposes of demonstration and for revivals of plays actually studied in our courses such an arrangement will be invaluable. Professor du Roure agrees with us in these suggestions, and he states that such a hall would be of inestimable value to him in connection with his Drama Courses and in the staging of his French Plays for illustration purposes. It would also be of great value to the Physical Education students who are taking courses in the Department of English. It might well contain, at very small cost, miniature models of the English Theatres from Shakespere to Sheridan.

These suggestions do not at all mean that we are advocating the establishment of a Little Theatre at McGill, a movement with which we have frankly no sympathy. We do not suggest the establishment of a theatre which will become the plaything of students and the general public who are not definitely connected with our Drama courses, or which will be a superficial haven for the acting of incomprehensible foreign drivel. We merely suggest the inclusion in the new Arts Building of a hall large enough to seat the Freshman Class and sufficiently well equipped to provide adequate instruction and demonstration in our Drama Courses, a place of definite value to honest students of the drama. In short we desire a dramatic workshop or dramatic laboratory for exclusively academic purposes the influence of which will be felt in Canadian schools.

The late Dean Moyse was Head of the English Department for over 40 years. His favourite courses, I can testify as one of his former students, were his Freshman Class and his Drama Classes, for the latter of which he always stated he had inadequate facilities. It would seem fitting that a hall providing for these courses the adequate equipment he wished for but never enjoyed should now be dedicated to his memory.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

*Cyrus Macmillan*

Chairman, Department of English.