

MCGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

(An Honours Course, continued)

the student is still tentative and making experiments in interest and proficiency is unnecessary, and probably a deterrent to many able minds. In any case permit a change in choice of Department for the Third Year.

c) In the Third and Fourth Years apply the same principle of the unit of the field of knowledge rather than the course of study in the Department, and allow a greater liberty of selection of courses in Departments that are cognate. The division of University studies into Departments is only an administrative device which ought not to stand in the way of the students' pursuit pursuing of a subject. For it is a subject with all its ramifications that a genuine scholar studies and not a Department. Nor is there commonly ^a variety of view enough in small-staffed Departments to give the students the intellectual stimulation they need. There is danger, indeed, of a feudal attitude toward the student which will not permit him to give his allegiance to anything not subject to the Department. The reason for pressing this point is that the courses in Philosophy do not have their chance to prove their worth under the existing system whereby the students who have mature interests are almost completely subject to regulations of their Departments which keep them 'within the fold.'

d) The most important recommendation is this: make the Honours student, even under the present system, take a responsibility for mastering his subject by preparing himself, during the whole period of his work as a student for Honours, for a Comprehensive Examination at the conclusion of his Course. This ^{Examination} should be not less than four papers of three hours each on all the work done for the degree in that Honours subject. This will produce an Honours 'mentality' and will be the greatest step toward a higher standard of scholarship.