

C O P Y.

November 16th, 1925.

Dr. R. F. Ruttan,
Chemistry Building,
McGill University.

My dear Dr. Ruttan:-

I have had, as you may already suspect, no little difficulty this year in arranging the registration of students in the two-year Pre-Medical course in Arts. Predicting these difficulties I undertook to act as adviser for this session to the whole of this group of students, numbering about seventy in all.

The situation, as I read it, seems to me to be about as follows:-

The Faculty of Medicine originally offered a preliminary year for admission into Medicine covering English, Physics, Chemistry and Biology. This preliminary year was then open to beginners in these subjects. Two years ago, however, the Medical Faculty decided to abandon this preliminary year, and to require for admission into Medicine two standard successful years in the Faculty of Arts, including one year in each of the following subjects, viz -

Physics
Biology

Chemistry, Organic
and Inorganic.

Including these four courses in Science, the first two years in Arts, as you know, covers eleven subjects in all -- that is, six in the first year, and five in the second year. At the beginning of this year, I reduced the number of subjects required in the first year to five as I was convinced by the experience of last year, that six subjects, including two laboratory subjects, was too much for any student to successfully undertake in the first year. This left ten subjects in the first two years, four of them scientific subjects, and six of them subjects peculiar to the Arts Faculty.

Since the change in the Medical School, however, the old courses in Pre-Medical Physics and Pre-Medical Biology have apparently been raised towards the level of advanced courses in these Departments. The idea of this change was obviously in order to require or suggest that three scientific laboratory subjects be taken in each of these two years and so reduce the pure Arts subjects to four in number.

Personally, I am of the opinion that if the Pre-Medical students are required to follow three laboratory subjects in each of the two years, the attention which they will be able to give to the pure Arts subjects will be very unsatisfactory, and I am inclined to think, if I interpret their intention correctly, that it was these Arts subjects, e.g. French, Latin, English and pure Mathematics, which the Authorities