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MEMORANDUM RE LOCATION OF GYMNASIUM AND DORMITORY BUILDING.

Much interest has been shown by the members of the Graduates' Society and others in the recent decision of the Board of Governors of McGill University to erect the new gymnasium and dormitory building on the site between the Physics Building and Sherbrooke St. It is very gratifying to the Board that the graduates have taken this interest as it values very highly the opinions and suggestions that can be received in this way. It is perhaps unfortunate that opportunity was not given your Society to discuss the matter before a decision was arrived at, but it was felt at the time that proper consideration was being given to all phases of the question.

Macdonald Park has always been looked upon as the site for the gymnasium and the original sketch plans for the development of the Park have shown the Gymnasium erected thereon. The Gymnasium Building Committee in making its recommendation, and the Board of Governors in making its decision, did so only after a very thorough study of ~~the~~ present and future likely conditions, and the changed view points regarding the purpose of a gymnasium ~~that had been brought about~~ since the original plan was proposed ~~have~~ came some ten years ago.

OBJECTIVES

In this study the Committee found that the purposes for which a modern gymnasium ~~are~~ is used differ very much indeed to those that were understood ten years ago. The prevailing conception of some ~~, until quite recently~~, was that the physical program was a thing more or less divorced from matters academic and was participated in by the students at the conclusion of their day's program in the University. The educational advantages to be derived from properly supervised physical activities have not been fully realized ~~as much as they should~~ until a comparatively recent date. The gymnasium and the athletic field ~~have~~, therefore, been looked upon more or less as luxuries and ~~are~~ ~~activities~~ providing facilities for athletic activities in which any one felt free to participate as they so desired.

The whole attitude toward Physical Education has changed, in that it is now fully recognized that ~~the~~ the objective should be ~~the~~ education of the whole individual and not ~~the~~ training for one particular ~~object or~~ purpose. The educational program should, therefore, provide opportunities for the development of neglected organic and neuro-muscular growth, co-ordination and control; for the numerous character building influences of practical activities; for the maintenance and preservation of the efficiency of the human machine in preparation for the stress and strain of later life; for the instruction in matters of health and hygiene and for the provision of means whereby the temporarily unfit student may be scientifically cared for and returned to his normal health.

The program ~~means~~ involves a very close relation to the life of the students, both in and out of the University buildings. It means a consideration theoretically of such subjects in hygiene as the causes of disease. It means further a close study of each individual student to determine the particular requirements of the individual so that the proper type of activity may be indulged in which would tend to stimulate and maintain his organic vigor, and that the students who have remediable physical defects may be properly prescribed for. It is in the conduct of these activities that much opportunity is afforded for moral education, the intimate contact that supervisors of practical activities have with the individual, offering unlimited opportunities in this connection. In ~~the~~ developing and carrying out ~~of~~ such a program, according to investigations carried on by Dr. Meylan of Columbia University, 90% of the larger Colleges and Universities of the United States ~~are~~ looking upon this work in Physical Education in ~~such a manner~~ so highly that definite credits are given for the theoretical and practical work done, ~~and~~ the work being rated on an equal basis with work that is strictly academic. It is felt that our