

Library, contributed by Professor W.T. Waugh and Dr. W.D. Woodhead, and accepted by the Committee, follows:-

REPORT ON THE REDPATH LIBRARY

To Dean Ira A. MacKay,  
Faculty of Arts and Science.

Dear Mr. Dean,

At your request we have made some inquiries into the administration of the Redpath Library and the adequacy of its resources, and we beg to submit the following report.

The Redpath Library is the laboratory of the Arts Division of the Faculty of Arts and Science. The use made of its resources is thus of special interest to the Departments concerned with the Humanities. Yet, while a scientific Department always enjoys a large measure of control over its laboratory, the control of the Faculty of Arts over the Redpath Library is very slight. The Library is "under the general management of a Committee of Corporation", which has twenty-one members. Only two of these are representatives of the Faculty of Arts. It seems to us that the representation of the Faculty on this Committee should be greatly increased. The Committee, furthermore, should meet more frequently, and should take a more active part in the management of the Library. At present it meets only thrice a year; it is, we are told, ill supplied with information, and its control over Library policy is perfunctory. It might do much valuable work through the judicious use of sub-committees; but it rarely, if ever, appoints one.

The function of a University librarian and his staff is to purchase, house, and render accessible such books as the teachers and students of the university need for the prosecution of their studies. They must also, from the space at their disposal, provide some accommodation for readers. All other obligations and aims are of secondary consequence. A University Library is not a philanthropic institution. It may strive to instruct or divert the general public if it has