

MCGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH.

of his students, whether in the details of spelling and grammar or in the larger matter of clear thought and orderly arrangement would send the unsatisfactory manuscript to the Department of English, and special instruction would be provided for the inefficient student.

The habitual use of good English, or at least of clear, correct and idiomatic English, which is so desirable, has its foundation in the home and the school. If a boy is allowed till he reaches college to use slovenly English and to spell at random; if his attention to his mother tongue is restricted to those hours of the school course which are "labelled" English; if he regards his English teacher as a specialist for consultation, like his physician or his dentist, the chances are he will make little progress in his college courses and ~~that~~ he will never possess an educated man's command of his language. With such students, the task of English teachers is well-nigh hopeless.

COURSES: During the past ten years, several new courses have been added in the Department, notably in Language, in Advanced Composition, and in the Drama.

The classes in Comparative Literature were this year larger than they have been for the past ten years, men and women attending in almost exactly equal numbers. McGill, situated in a French-speaking centre such as Montreal and drawing for her student body upon a great many countries, is favorably placed for the expansion of this branch of literary study. Practically all students registering for Comparative Literature have a good reading knowledge of French; most of them speak the language fluently; several members of the class know both French and German, and some know Italian or Spanish, or both. The instruction is all given in English, and passages quoted or referred to are usually translated. The readings assigned are about equally divided between translations and original texts. There are possibilities for still greater development in this field.

Several new courses in the drama were established, including two courses