

MC GILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

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DEPARTMENT OF BACTERIOLOGY
PROFESSOR E. G. D. MURRAY

July 27th, 1931.

The Principal,
McGill University,
Montreal, P. Q.

*Survey
Macdonald College*

Dear Mr. Principal:

I have read the Report on which you desired my opinion.

I offer no criticism of the courses of instruction in Bacteriology provided at Macdonald College which occupy the bulk of the Report of the Department of Bacteriology, as I believe Professor Gray must be allowed to determine the curricula for the various classes of students he is required to teach.

Leaving out of consideration the desirability of a university providing a "Homemaker Class" and a "School of Household Science," I am convinced that the courses in bacteriology given to these students should only be tolerated on condition that they in no way interfere with the serious teaching of agricultural students, and, above all, the time available for research work by Professor Gray and his staff.

Judging from what I saw on visiting Macdonald College, on two occasions, Professor Gray's report does not represent the difficulties he has to contend with. If I may be allowed to make a suggestion, I would advise that Professor Gray be asked to make a full report on the personnel and equipment of his department, the facilities with which he is provided, and to outline what alterations and support he considers necessary to enable him to develop the Department to be a credit to the University. To emphasize the need for this enquiry I shall give one example: I cannot conceive of any excuse for circumstances which force the head of the department to make with his own hands the media and all other preparations for class purposes. His time should be more valuable than to be employed in work ordinarily performed by a technician. In my opinion, Professor Gray very much understates the case when he says (p 49) that "with the present assistance the direction and scope of research work is limited."

The record of research (p 8) is not remarkable and this should be taken in connection with the last two paragraphs of page 19 of the Report. I disagree completely with these two paragraphs and I would emphasize the world wide experience that the very best "student material" is attracted almost entirely by the quality of the research output of a scientific institution. In my opinion,