

The Macdonald Physics Building
McGill University

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MEMORANDUM ON THE SYLLABUS OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND
MEMORIAL COLLEGE

The First Year Course in Physics is apparently of the character of a High-School Course. For example, the text used is distinctly of that character. The various First Year University text-books which are widely used in the United States and elsewhere are the following:-

Stewart's Physics, A text-book for Colleges; pub. Cinn & Co.
Kimball's College Physics; pub. Henry Holt & Co.
A Text-book of Physics - Watson; pub. Longmans Green & Co.
Duncan and Starling's Text-book of Physics; pub. MacMillan
Luff's College Physics; pub. Longmans Green & Co.
Ferry's General Physics; pub. John Wiley & Sons.

It is extremely difficult to state which of these is the most suitable book for any particular teacher or class.

As regards the laboratory work, I have asked the publisher, Mr. Renouf, to forward specimens of the laboratory books in use at McGill University, in order that the standard set forth in the Newfoundland syllabus may be compared with that in use during the first year at McGill. In particular, the course set forth in the Newfoundland syllabus is deficient in experiments on Hydrostatics, Specific Gravity, and Archimedes' Principle. These usually have rather a vivid appeal to students and are particularly suitable for the first steps in the scientific education of elementary students.

No doubt your first two years combined would be sufficient in Physics for any students who are not preparing to follow that course any further, but will turn to some other branch of science. We have, however, to consider the following cases:-

(1) Students entering the B.Sc. Arts Course at McGill

Such students do some Mechanics and Heat before they enter McGill at all. In the First Year they take a quite difficult course in Heat, Light and Sound, with laboratory experiments on those subjects. They take this course with the Engineering Students in the Faculty of Applied Science.