

in the various academy grades. That average, made from the statements of the teachers themselves, is as follows: Grade I, 2.8 hours per week; Grade II, 3.3 hours per week; Grade III, 4.3 hours per week. That is about one-tenth of a pupil's time is given to Latin in Grade I, one-ninth in Grade II, and about one-seventh in Grade III. From the teacher's standpoint the same figures show that, assuming all the time given to the subject is given to recitation, which is probably not the case, from one-fourth to one-third of the time of one teacher is given to Latin for the three grades taken together. It may be therefore that, in a small academy where only one teacher is employed to teach all the grades, from one-fourth to one-third of the time is given to Latin. But as Latin is an optional subject it is open to any school board to decline to have it taught.

That Latin is an optional subject Dr. Shurtleff admits, but he goes on to state that Latin and Greek are practically compulsory because of the marks assigned them in the examinations. This is not a correct statement and is surely made in ignorance of the facts. A reference to the course of study will show that a pupil in Grade III Academy may get his maximum of 900 marks by selecting from subjects totalling 1800 marks. I am sure I carry with me the opinion of all who are competent to judge when I state that the 200 marks assigned to Latin can be obtained much more easily by taking two of certain optional subjects to each of which 100 marks is assigned. All this goes to show that Latin is taught on account of local selection, and I imagine because of its recognized disciplinary value. In answer to an inquiry the teachers of the Province have on more than one occasion given an almost unanimous verdict in favor of the present system of marks.

One other subject requires a word. The statement is made that when McGill changes the text books for Matriculation the schools are compelled to follow suit. This also is an error. The text books prescribed by the Protestant Committee are accepted by the University. It does not follow, however, that the text books named in the University calendar must be those named by the Council of Public Instruction. The University in changing its text books from time to time is no doubt pleased if the Protestant Committee for the sake of uniformity follow suit.