

MCGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH.

OUR NEEDS: Our greatest need is additional assistance in the First Year. As we have already stated, students in the First Year require constant drill and practice in the use of clear, correct and idiomatic English. The work involved in reading hundreds of Freshman themes, as well as course theses of students in the upper classes is very great, and this work must be increased rather than decreased if the best results are to be obtained. The senior members of the Department give a vast amount of individual instruction to upper class students by way of tutorial conferences. Conferences for First Year students are conducted largely by Assistants or Teaching Fellows; the class room instruction, however, is all given by the senior members of the Department. Provision for a larger number of Assistants in the First Year would permit the senior members of the staff to give more time to senior students and to graduate students.

We believe, too, that when the funds of the University permit, provision should be made for instruction in oral English. We are not thinking of elocution, but of practice in clear and distinct enunciation. The instructor might also assume supervision of "retarded sections" in English Composition and might also assist in courses in practical drama, especially in expression. It is difficult, or indeed impossible, to find a man who is willing to devote all his time to the teaching of English Composition, but the other courses mentioned would give the relief of variety.