

November 26, 1910.

THE EDITOR, MCGILL "MARTLET."

DEAR SIR,

At the last meeting of the Athletic Association the application of the McGill Swimming Club that the big "M" be granted in future for aquatic performances of more than usual merit was turned down. The chief argument and the only one which I have heard, was that there were already too many ways in which the big distinction could be earned. With the knowledge that members of their own clubs could, by sufficiently meritorious performances, win the honour, the representatives of the other clubs voted down our application. As in conversation with members of the University I have heard it said that the Swimming Club had no right to the big "M", I wish to put before the readers of the "Martlet" our position.

As matters stand now the members of the Swimming Club are practically the only athletes at McGill who cannot win the big "M." It is granted to every other Athletic Club with the exception of the newly formed English Rugby Football Club.

Is it fair to place our club in such a position?

In answer I would make two statements. First that the Swimming Club, both in and out of the College, is better known and better patronised than the greater majority of other clubs whose members can win the big "M"; and, secondly, that the members of our club who represent us in Intercollegiate and Inter-city aquatic sports sacrifice a great deal more time and spend a great deal more money in order to do so than the members of any other athletic club in the University.

It might also be added that as far as bringing championship honours to McGill is concerned we also are far in advance of any other athletic club here.

Despite the obvious disadvantages under which we work (the distant situation of the bath, and the expense necessary to take an active part in the work of the club) we have now, and have had for several years, a membership of well over a hundred students. Our average attendance at the bath on practice nights is about thirty, and our entry list for the annual aquatic sports is at least as long as that of the Track Club on Sports Day.

At the only polo game which we advertised this year and for which we sought a large attendance there was a record crowd at the Baths. The other games we felt sure of winning with ease and did not seek the aid of a band of rooters.

As to being recognised outside of college we have received invitations from Yale, Cornell and Columbia to visit them to take part in swimming meets, with substantial offers attached to pay expenses. Last year our club promoted an international swimming meet and brought to Montreal American swimmers