

- 4 -

PALEONTOLOGY

The collections of fossils in the Redpath Museum are altogether adequate in two departments -- Paleobotany and Invertebrates. Vertebrate Paleontology, however, is miserably represented. To stock the Museum with adequate vertebrate material would necessitate an expenditure of thousands of dollars, which at present hardly seems to be justified. Vertebrate Paleontology is so highly specialized a subject that were this step contemplated advice and suggestions from a competent expert should be first sought. As an alternative, or possibly a first step, a McGill, or joint expedition to the Red Deer River region to bring back a dinosaur would be both spectacular and at the same time of great scientific interest, stimulating the flow of funds for the further upbuilding of the exhibits along those lines.

Undergraduate teaching in Paleontology is well provided for. Graduate studies in that subject are dependent partly upon the reserve material of a well stocked museum, and partly upon the collections made by the students themselves. Fortunately, we can congratulate ourselves upon having a good reserve collection of most of the subdivisions that one may make of Canadian fossils, which may be tabulated as follows:-

	<u>Western</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>Eastern</u>	<u>Maritimes</u>
Cenozoic	Poor	-----	Good	-----
Mesozoic	Fair	-----	-----	-----
Paleozoic	Poor	Good	Good	Good

The average rating is higher than a percentage basis would indicate, for no institution has as yet a good representative collection of Paleozoic fossils from the West. It would appear therefore that further reinforcement of our collections by means of purchase, except as indicated below, can only be considered in the light of a luxury. Collections are constantly being donated; important ones containing material worthy of exhibition or reserve space coming in once a month on the average.

In case McGill is fortunate enough to attract graduate students, some provision must be made for room for them to work. At present there is no possible place for them. Such place must be made here in the Museum. If no change is contemplated in the seating arrangement of the lecture room, cubicles can be built there which will in no way impede progress through the room nor