

MCGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH.

essentials of English usage. Some time ago the Faculty, on motion of the Department of English, passed a resolution requesting that this method be followed, but no such reports have been received. We are expected to teach students to write, - not as literary geniuses, - but to write grammatically, clearly, and concisely, -- to write with at least a knowledge of the mechanics of English. The use of the mother tongue should be a matter of concern to all teachers; yet the Department of English is held responsible not only for instruction in writing but for all correction of the student's faults as a writer. It is out of the question to insist upon the more subtle graces of style, desirable as they may be; and it is impracticable to undertake a duplication of the instruction given in composition courses. On the other hand, students are mistaken in supposing that their instructors in other subjects are indifferent to the quality of their English. Incoherently expressed history is bad history, and it is impossible to convey good economics in obscure English. Students usually write their exercises in English with great care but they frequently write their reports in other subjects in careless and sloppy English. Instructors in other Departments are obviously unable because of lack of time to secure the attention to good English that they naturally desire, but the "report system" approved by the Faculty provides to a large extent the machinery for requiring this attention. Under this system an instructor who is not satisfied with the quality of English used by one