

C O P Y

November 18th, 1925.

Dr. Ira A. MacKay,
Dean of the Faculty of Arts,
McGill University.

Dear MacKay:-

Thank you for your letter of November 14th. I am in general agreement with your point of view and I am glad that a conference is to be called to try and get matters on an established footing.

There is, however, one point to bear in mind. You state, "Since the change in the Medical School, however, the old course in Pre-Medical Physics and Pre-Medical Biology have apparently been raised towards the level of advanced courses in these Departments." This does not appear to be the case in Physics.

The course Physics 1M has been in existence since about 1914. It used to be 3 hours lectures and 2 hours laboratory. By the request of two Deans, Dr. Armstrong and Dr. Birkett, and the late Registrar, Dr. Scane, also later of Dr. Simpson and Dr. John Tait, this was slightly extended. The lectures were still 3 hours per week but 4 hours laboratory were given one week and 2 hours laboratory and one tutorial in the alternative week.

The standard has throughout been 50 percent in the course 1M. Experience showed that students who had not had a considerable previous training in Physics failed to reach this standard.

The object was not to cram them with knowledge but to help them to acquire what we might call a physical sense, and it is impossible to do this with a single year's course.

Hence, Physics 1, or equivalent, was made a prerequisite to Physics 1M. In this way we secure at least two years of training in Physics and this remains an essential prerequisite for entrance to Medicine.

Unfortunately, this ideal has never been carried out thoroughly, so that a certain number of unprepared students are still going forward into Medicine. It is to remedy this last defect that I am agitating.

Yours very sincerely,

(SIGNED) A. S. EVE.