

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
MUSICAL EDUCATION.

This Committee was appointed at the meeting of Corporation in March last with the following membership, namely, Dean Perrin of the Faculty of Music, Convenor, Dr. Francis McLennan, Dr. Richard Roberts, Dr. D.L. Ritchie, Principal of the Congregational College, the Warden of the Royal Victoria College and the Dean of McGill College.

The Committee since its appointment has held three formal meetings and several informal interim meetings attended by two or more members. At each of the three formal meetings delegates of interested citizens were received and heard. At the first meeting a delegation of ladies appeared and gave the Committee many helpful suggestions. At the second meeting four of the supervisors of music in the Protestant elementary and high schools were received and examined, and offered much suggestive and illuminating evidence touching provisions made at present for dealing with the subject of music in the Protestant Public Schools of the City and Province. The third full meeting took the form of a conversation between a Committee of the Protestant School Board of the City, specially appointed by the Board to consult with your Committee for the purpose of suggesting some practical ways and means by which the schools and the University might co-operate in the interests of musical education in the community. As the result of these conferences and deliberations, your Committee now begs leave to report to you as follows:-

In the first case your Committee cannot help deploring the pathetically small provision made at the present time for the study and enjoyment of music among the English-speaking people of Montreal. We have no adequate Conservatorium building or headquarters of any kind for the professional study and practice of music, nor any proper public hall or auditorium where really instructive music may be heard and enjoyed by the public. The present University Conservatorium building is and always was wholly inadequate and ill-fitted to meet this need. Even if the University were justified in putting it any longer to its present uses, further funds for this purpose are imperative if anything more is to be done really worth doing. The members of the Committee mark with special interest and approval a suggestion made by the delegation of ladies mentioned above, that the effort begun a few years ago to raise funds to build a suitable Memorial Hall should be revised and considered at the earliest possible date. The members of the Committee also suggest that the very best results in a venture of this kind would probably be obtained by close and sympathetic co-operation between the University and the public.

In the next place, your Committee wishes to point out again the omission up to the present time of the Protestant Public schools of the City and elsewhere, not only in this Province but in some other parts of Canada, to officially recognise extra-mural training in music. From evidence placed before the Committee, it is obvious that a very large percentage of pupils in the schools attempt, after school hours and at their parents' expense, to acquire some skill in instrumental performance of music at some time during the years they spend at school. It also appears, however, that this percentage rapidly diminishes year by year until it becomes very small indeed towards the end of the High school period, and during the University period, whilst there is sometimes a slight revival of interest, only the most persistent enthusiasts continue their serious musical studies effectively. What with the multiplicity of studies and other student