

McGILL UNIVERSITY

Office of the Principal
and Vice Chancellor.

Re article appearing on July 29th, 1931, in the Montreal Daily Star, headed: "Animal Parasites Drive Advocated" and claiming that this work has not up to the present time been done in Canada.

Macdonald College has on her staff the only trained zoologist and parasitologist in the Dominion primarily interested in parasites of domestic animals. At the present time there are two professional men devoting their full time to poultry parasite problems. There are also two attendants and technicians on this work, and two other professional men devoting part of their time to it. Our Zoologist and Parasitologist has devoted his entire time during the past two years.

That the work at Macdonald is well known and is receiving official recognition is evidenced by the fact that at a recent meeting of the Committee on Animal Diseases of the National Research Council, it was stated that there was hope of centering all work of this nature at Macdonald College. In fact, plans are nearing completion for the development of a Parasite Research Institute at Macdonald College to which contributions will be made by the Province of Quebec, the National Research Council and the Empire Marketing Board.

The study of parasitic diseases of domestic and fur-bearing animals was initiated at Macdonald College in 1922, and in 1927 the work was greatly widened. There is now ready for publication a paper which will bring out data not previously available in connection with parasitic diseases of the mink. Quebec is a live stock province. The health of its live stock is a matter of extreme importance, both to producers and consumers. Animal parasites have become a serious menace to sheep, swine, poultry and fur-bearing animals in Quebec and elsewhere in Canada. No research work was done in Canada on sheep, swine and poultry parasites until Macdonald College took up the work. A liver fluke in sheep was discovered for the first time in North America in a flock of sheep near St. Johns, Que. Worth-while work has also been done on genital diseases of cattle, another source of great loss. Certain findings at Macdonald have made helpful services possible to a large number of dairymen who were in serious difficulty. The College has also demonstrated that it is possible to rear birds that are free from internal parasites, and to keep them free.

Having the reputation of being one of the best equipped agricultural colleges on the Continent, Macdonald attracts a cosmopolitan student body. It is the only privately endowed institution of its kind and is thus unhampered by political interference and not restricted by provincial boundaries. It is, therefore, the logical institution for undertaking work of this nature. Its suitability may be further emphasized by its ideal situation at the centre of the most intensive practice in both production and marketing. The parasite problem here is more acute than in areas such as Western Canada, or countries such as Australia and South Africa, where range conditions prevail.