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### IN THE municipal schools in Nova Scotia it is customary for the student to begin the study of French and Latin in the seventh and eighth grades respectively. It is also customary for him, when matriculating after five and four years of work in each language, to have the slighest command of neither,-not sufficient of French to ask for a piece of bread and butter in the tongue, nor of Latin to comprehend and appreciate the simplest classical author. It is indeed unusual if he have these attainments upon graduating with a college

The Teaching of Languages

Though French is the native tongue of twenty-four percent of the population of Canada, we in Nova Scotia have not yet seen fit to employ teachers capable of speaking the language. And classes under such teachers have three strikes on them from the beginning.

The prime function on the part of a modern language is self-expression on the part of the individual, first in speech, and then in writing. But if this end is not obtained, then nothing is obtained, and it be far better to eliminate the course entirely.

To judge from local practice, we consider the study of French to consist of the acquiring, parrot-fashion, of a lengthy collection of words, together with the assimulation, though seldom the application, of a complicated system of grammar rules, not excluding all their numerous exceptions. To us it has always been more important to know where to put the accent, than to know how to use it. "Successful linguists" cram a vast amount of this sort of knowledge the eve of examinations, and

LETTERS to the Editor

then promptly proceed to forget it. And who can blame them. The task compares favorably with that of memorizing a 1908 table of life

of course, the language being dead, no emphasis is placed upon speech. The original purpose for studying Latin has always been to enable us to peruse the literature and appreciate the culture of the great civilization—in some respects greater than our own — that existed around the Mediterranean prior to the collapse of the Roman Empire. Or again, since much of English has been derived, directly or indirectly, from Latin, familiarity with the grammar structure of that language invariable makes one more conscious of the structure of English.

To discover to what degree our teaching system defeats these purposes, it is necessary merely to request some student to turn a passage of English into Latin, or to question him on the life and ideas of Ovid after he has just submitted an examination paper full of memorized, crib-prepared translations of that poet's works. Latin literature should be taught as is English literature: not frequently is it taught at all.

If steps are not taken to remedy this wretched situation we shall lose the advantages of classical culture in much the same way as Tutonic barbarians lost it in the fifth zand sixth centuries. As for the teaching of modern languages, the defect here is too grave an insult to an intelligent, healthy and progressive society to remain long unrectified.

# insurance rates, and is about as useful. The same is true for Latin, though here,

Plays are produced in Moyse Hall at McGill University, in Convocation Hall at Queen's, and in Hart House Theatre, which for the past two years has been opened only for a six week season, at the University of Toronto. A sad story of a dramatic housing shortage comes from the University of Manitoba whose theatre was occupied by the army for five years and requires stage renovation before returning to civilian life.

### Generally Extra-curricular

Dramatic distinction is given for efficient staging as well as for proficient acting at Acadia University where three one-act plays are produced and directed annually by members of one of the English courses. Mount Allison University awards dramatic A's at the end of the year for credits received for participation in any and all phases of stage productions, and an individual award for the best actor is Drama Festival. Queen's University provides a course in dramatics at its summer school.

### Co-operation Good

The chief feature of all the reports on campus productions is a general spirit of student co-operation: for instance this report from the University of Montreal on their annual Revue Bleu et Or. "It is a kind of Music-Hall Review made up of sketches about student life, humorous songs, written by the school wit, dances performed by the girl-friend who is learning ballet . . . settings are designed and put up by the boys in Architec-

The University of Ottawa says, "It is a firmly established tradition to stage two plays, yearly, one in

"All plays are cast and produced by students," comes from Queen's University, "and insofar as possible

At the University of Manitoba the Dramatic Society presents one major production during the first term, a drama festival during the second term, and a radio play some

The Universities of Montreal, Ottawa, Queen's and Manitoba speak of increasing public interest in their dramatic productions which, as in the case of almost all the colleges, are modern plays. The list of Canadian Campus productions for this season include, The Male Animal at University of Manitoba. Our Town at McGill University and University of Toronto, and Arsenic and Old Lace at University of New Brunswick.

Mary had a little wolf. She fleeced him white as snow.

# Campus

• WHAT ARE the chances for a Canadian drama developing in the colleges and universities from coast to coast, pondered Canadian Campus? Are production facilities good? Are dramatics recognized academically? Are they popular? Answers varied from college to college on everything but popularity. Drama, it seems is here

Most campi have their own theatre or auditorium available, though some have to stage their productions away from the home campus. Acadia University reports, an auditorium seating approximately 2,000, with a spacious stage, a pipe organ and two grand pianos. Under the stage is a pit containing the batteries and lights and above the stage is a prop room and loft for storing costumes and

Campus Dramatic Societies or Guilds are generally extra-curricular but in some cases such as at McGill University, curricular and extra-curricular dramatics function side by side. The McGill Players' Club, supported by the Students' Council produces two plays a year, while the English Department also produces two plays, staged completely by the students in the two drama courses given at the uni-

presented by the adjudicator at the

French and one in English."

students make their own costumes."

time during the year.



Duffynitions:

Parasite - A person who goes thru a revolving door without

Mal de Mer-French for "You can't take it with you."

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### down to the degree where they lose their meaning. Under ordinary circumstances they should not exceed 200 words. Ed.

D LETTERS to the Editor should

be short, concise, and to the point; else they run the risk of being cut

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

In Repy to Mr. Lovelace YOUR CORRESPONDENT, Mr. Lovelace, in last week's issue of the Gazette, regrets the fact that people who wish to display their literary genius" fail to choose subjects on which they might write with some degree of authority.

Obviously Mr. Lovelace considers himself an authority. (The fact he has displayed any literary genius is perhaps rather doubtful. His letter is, indeed, the most appalling example I have ever seen

of confused and muddled thinking.) For the sake of argument, we'll assume that Mr. Lovelace is an authority-at least on Shinto-ism. However, I quite fail to see—and I have read Mr. Lovelace's letter at least seventeen times—just what the connexion is between Shintoism, the Order of the Black Dragon, the moral assessment of war atrocities, and the Japanese-

Canadian question! From the most involved discussion of Shinto-ism, Mr. Lovelace moves to the rather startling conclusion that the action of our government has been democratic! (There may be a connexion, of course, but I'm sorry I don't see Secondly, from a still more involved discussion of the relativity of morals, Mr. Lovelace con-cludes that the action of our government has not been "degrading". (Comparatively speaking, of course, he is right. Morally, however, I don't see the distinction.)

Frankly, it seems to me that people who wish to display their literary genius might submit an article or two to the Literary Editor, which would, perhaps, be more to the purpose. Between such endeavours, I might suggest one's reading a book on the art of clear thinking, and a special university course on racial and religious toler-

### L. MORTON NORMAN.

Ed. More letters replying to Mr. Lovelace have been received, but space does not permit their publication this week.

### Degree Students and Intercollegiate Sports

WHY IS IT that a student, because he has a degree, regardless of whether he has played any varsity sport, be deprived of the chance to compete in it?

There are many students who come to Dalhousie with a degree, but have never participated in an Intercollegiate sport before, who feel that they would like to try out for the team now. Some have obtained their degree in three years and so lose out on a year of inter-collegiate competition. On the other hand, some students take over four degrees to obtain their degree, and so they are permitted to play on until they receive it. Is this fair . . .

Many of our returned service men especially would like a chance after many years away from the

Dalhousie loses out while the other colleges benefit. It is not right and something should be done about it. The solution is obvious ... Only a student who has played in intercollegiate sport for four years should be ineligible for fur-

ther competition in that particular sport alone . . EDDIE ROGERS. Ed... This ruling was leveled at Dalhousie by the other colleges in the Maritimes who do not possess professional faculties, and as long as they are in the majority, there is no prospect of the M.I.A.U. changing it. They do not want us to use persons like Mr. Rogers on

### this winter. Dominion-Provincial Relations

our intercollegiate basketball team

The forthcoming Dominion-Provincial Conference will be watched by us all with great interest. Those who were all too ready to upbraid Messrs. Hepburn, Pattullo and Aberhart now have that problem wiped out. Will success be any more probable?

Mr. Low has been enraged because his party was not represented at the San Francisco Conference. today. Only by general careless-Have Alberta's feelings changed since Rowell Sirois days?

Col. Drew's long feud with the present Prime Minister on Dominion-Provincial relationships is only too well known. How can we ex-

### CAMPUS CLIPPINGS by AL LOMAS

THIS IS the period of lasts—the last dances, last shows, last football games,-and of first too, namely, first looks at books since they were bought. Outdoor sports on the campus have finally given up and indoor softball and basketball are flourishing. Tonight D.M.D.S. presents its second show of the year - for students only tonight. We hear that it has been a long, hard job getting this one ready. The point has been brought up this week that the University should operate some form of student employment board. During the war, jobs were easily come by, but this coming summer students will probably need some assistance if all are to find summer work.

The Japanese-Canadian question is still burning bright, especially in the Western Universities. Strange how relatively unimportant it seems in the East where we do not face the same problem . . Noted this week that Prof. Maxwell has been chosen Hon. Pres. of the Frosh class.

pect co-operation from that direction?

confidence, will set the pace for harmony at Ottawa. Nova Scotia will doubtless produce a much worthier contribution to these relations than she did in the initial

Many Canadians are beginning to feel that education should be nationalized. What about health? Should the provinces abstain from certain "fields of taxation" in favor of Ottawa? These are the vital questions to be answered if we hope to keep this glorious country in the commanding position she has reached in world assembly halls of ness are we to let her sink back to the petty poverty of provincialisms that so insidiously ate away our "National Being" in pre-war

COLIN S. SMITH.