

Dept. of Classics

Jan. 31, 1931.

Report to the Department of Graduate Studies

The work of the Department of Classics in Graduate Studies depends upon that which is taken by students in undergraduate courses. And since for over fifteen years Greek has been practically excluded from the schools, it has been difficult to keep the standard of the Honour work in Classics as high as it should be. With the establishment of advanced courses in the First Year, however, it is hoped that that standard may now be definitely improved.

The Department of Classics has hitherto granted the degree of M.A. to students in Latin alone, in Greek alone, or in both Classical Languages. But I am personally opposed to the continuation much longer of a system which was due at the outset to the difficulty of obtaining Greek before entering McGill University. At the very least, no M.A. should be granted in Latin to a student who has no acquaintance with Greek.

Of the seventeen students who have taken work towards an M.A. in the Department of Classics during the last seven years, 7 have been graduates of McGill, and 10 have come from outside institutions. Though the number of students is small, at least three courses are called for every year from the department; and as there are only five members to carry on the graduate and undergraduate work combined (a total of 65 lecture hours per week), and as 6 more hours will be added to this weekly total next year, I feel very strongly that the Department cannot carry on without additional help.

There is a total lack of Graduate Scholarships or Fellowships in the Department, and it cannot be too strongly insisted that this should be remedied by the establishment of a few really valuable fellowships. They would be a splendid inducement to our own students to continue their studies, and to students from other Universities to come to McGill for their Graduate work.