

Queen's University Journal

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Editorials.

COMPULSORY PHYSICAL TRAINING AT QUEEN'S.

THE Alma Mater Society has been asked to approve the following recommendation of the Athletic Committee:—

The Athletic Committee beg leave to bring to the attention of the Senate the following considerations:—

We have a good gymnasium which the students are not making full use of. With the exception of the students of the first year in Science for the most part, only men who are athletically inclined are making any use of the gymnasium. The committee has considered the matter and is convinced that the only remedy for this state of affairs is compulsory physical training, and as a step towards this end recommends that physical drill be made compulsory in the first year. Under the present voluntary system the single physical instructor whom we employ has his time fully occupied and such an extension of the work as we suggest would necessitate more instructors and expert medical supervision. If the principle of compulsory training is adopted we must therefore look to the University for financial aid.

The general need for such a measure is put as concisely and clearly as could be in the following letter from Dr. R. Tait MacKenzie. Dr. MacKenzie, who addressed the students at the opening of our gymnasium two years ago, is a recognized authority on physical education, and the pioneer in this work in the universities of America. As director of the Department of Physical Education in Pennsylvania University, he is responsible for the physical condition of 4,000 young men,—a fair-sized practice for one man! The system instituted by Dr. MacKenzie has been so successful that methods similar to his have been and are being adopted by many other American universities.