

McGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL.

FACULTY OF ARTS  
PSYCHOLOGICAL LABORATORY

February 2, 1921.

Professor William Caldwell,  
Head, Department of Philosophy,  
McGill University, Montreal.

Dear Sir:

With reference to the additional assistance required in the teaching of Psychology may I be permitted to place my point of view before you?

As you will remember there was complete unanimity on the necessity for additional instruction in Psychology because of the development of the subject here and the demand for courses in Business, Social, Medical and Educational Psychology

Therefore, owing to the <sup>o</sup>growing importance of Psychology as a University subject and also because of its relation to the community, I differ from you as to the form of this assistance. The man selected should be a man of high standing in scholarship, personality, teaching, and research ability; he should also have a sympathetic understanding of Canadian life. It would seem that the

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situation could be best met by the appointment of an Assistant Professor, in keeping with the recent appointments in other departments of the Arts Faculty.

There are two graduates who are eminently qualified for the position. One of them Dr. J. W. Bridges is now Assistant Professor of Psychology in Ohio State University. He is a recognized authority in the aspects of the subject which would be of most value to McGill in relation to the community. Dr. Bridges would be willing to return to Canada and his alma mater if the appointment did not involve a sacrifice in salary and rank.

I would therefore respectfully suggest that you recommend the appointment of Dr. Bridges as Assistant Professor of Psychology.

Very respectfully yours,

McGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL.

FACULTY OF ARTS  
PSYCHOLOGICAL LABORATORY

March 1, 1921.

Professor William Caldwell,  
Department of Philosophy,  
McGill University, Montreal.

Dear Sir:

After giving serious thought to the matter I have reached the conclusion that a department of psychology at McGill should be well within the realm of reality. Because of its relations to the various aspects of academic and practical life it would appear that the work in psychology can be most effectively and satisfactorily carried on by the creation of a separate department.

With this end in view I am respectfully submitting this suggestion to you in order that you may give it your careful consideration and take such action in regard to it as you may deem advisable.

Very respectfully yours,

*This year.*

COURSES

HOURS PER WEEK

2 ✓	Elementary Psychology... <i>Arts Soc Adv. Comm.</i> 2	<i>Req.</i>
6 7/8	Elementary Experimental Psychology <i>3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup></i> 4 (minimum)	<i>Req.</i>
2	Social Psychology... <i>3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> yrs &amp; Soc. Serv.</i> 2	<i>Req.</i>
	Educational Psychology... <i>Teachers taking B.A.</i> 2	
1	Abnormal Psychology... <i>Medical</i> 2 (during first term)	
	Applied Psychology... <i>Business &amp; Industrial</i> 2	
	Advanced Experimental Psychology <i>Honor. St. &amp; Grad.</i> 4 (minimum)	
	Seminar in Psychology... <i>Honor. St. &amp; Grad.</i> 2	
	Research ..... 2	
1	<i>Social Service</i>	22 hours per week
2	<i>Advances Psy.</i>	
	Add:	
2	Hospital Clinic..... 2	
	Survey in Schools..... 4 (minimum)	
1	Extension Lectures..... 1 (half term.)	

17.

## PUBLICATIONS

1. The Doctrine of Specific Nerve Energies, Journal of Philosophy and Scientific Methods. 1912.
2. An Experimental Study of Decision Types and Their Mental Correlates, Psychological Review Monograph No 72, 1914 pp 72
3. The Point Scale: A New Method for Measuring Capacity, with Yerkes, Boston Med. and Surg. Journal 1914. pp. 27.
4. A Point Scale for Measuring Mental Ability, with Yerkes and Hardwick, Wrawick & York, 1915, pp 178.
5. The Relation of Intelligence to Social Status, with L.E. Coler, Grad. Std. Psych. Rev. 1917, pp 30.
6. Industrial Psychology, Optometrical Journal. 1917 pp 15.
7. Individual Examinations (Including Army Performance Scale) in Examiners Guide for Psychological Examining in the U.S. Army pp 50.
8. An Outline of Psychology pp128 (Second edition in prep.) Published by R.G. Adams, Columbus Ohio. 1919.
9. The Correlation between Interests and Abilities in College Courses. Psych. Rev. 1920.
10. A Short Point Scale for Mental Measurement. Jour. of Applied Psychology.
11. The Correlation between College Grades and the Army Alpha Intelligence Tests. Jour. of Educational Psych. 1921.

McGill is now for the first time able to appoint a man who shall give his whole time to this work. What would be expected of a lecturer in the beginning would be:

I. Conduct of the ordinary Second Year class in Introductory Psychology. In this course, of course, only the elements of experimental work would be ~~expressed~~ <sup>introduced</sup>.

II. A course proper in Experimental Psychology such as is given at Harvard University, <sup>with laboratory work</sup>

III. Encouragement in investigation or seminary <sup>laboratory</sup> work on the part of <sup>the</sup> two or three students who <sup>might</sup> ~~should~~ show capacity for this sort of work.

(Later, he might - in conjunction with colleagues - arrange for other courses)

We possess in the library a fairly good number of books upon Psychology, and the usual American and European magazines. With the annual appropriation of \$250 for literature and apparatus, McGill seems now to be in a position to represent adequately experimental work. Everything, however, would naturally depend upon the power of the man who comes as lecturer to create and sustain an interest in this whole subject.

It would be understood, of course, that the lecturer should work in thorough harmony with his colleagues in the Department <sup>of Philosophy</sup>, as to the place to be given to Psychology in the University generally.

It will be seen that there is a sum of 1000<sup>00</sup> - which could, with the approval of the Department and the authorities, be spent upon fitting up two or three rooms and getting more apparatus.

McGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL.

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

February 2nd, 1921.

Prof. James Harkness,  
Acting Dean,  
Faculty of Arts.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your request of January 19th, I beg to report as follows on behalf of the Department of Philosophy.

There is need of immediate extra assistance in the matter of the teaching of Psychology.

For the next session there is positive need of an extra man, someone capable of lecturing on such psychological subjects as may be required by the Department, and of giving assistance in the Psychological Laboratory. The work that is being now given and that is being called for is now beyond the capacity of one man.

In addition to the work in General Psychology and in the new Experimental Psychology, work is now being called for in Educational Psychology, in Social Psychology, Medical Psychology, "Social Service" Psychology, and even in "Business Psychology" and in Psychology applied to Physical Training etc. Toronto, like most other Universities, has two or more <sup>men</sup> teaching Psychology.

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DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Prof. Harkness, 2.

More than what has been indicated will, in all probability, be soon required in McGill. But the additional work indicated is a necessity for next session if our work is to be carried on effectively.

Yours faithfully,

*William Caldwell*

address  
N. Atherton  
Tall Mall SW

My dear Sir Arthur Currier

My dear Sir Arthur,

I am in receipt of your letter about the Department and psychology and Dr Hickson and so on. You will know of course that I <sup>take</sup> think this in the right spirit, and that I am touched to the quick by your frank, kind monitory words. I think that you know how readily I will rally to the intimation and the reminder from you my Chief and my friend.

You say that <sup>we</sup> you must <sup>face</sup> state the fact that the Department of Philosophy is now and has been for some years in a very unsatisfactory state. <sup>And</sup> you open by saying that one of the first things you <sup>have</sup> ~~heard~~ was about a desire to divide the Department of Philosophy and the Department of Psychology.

(1) There is a broad and an age-long issue here, <sup>nothing</sup> ~~none~~ ~~the~~ less than the complete freedom of a science from any domination by philosophy or religion ~~and~~ so on. This has resulted in most Universities <sup>in</sup> ~~that~~ Psychology <sup>being</sup> ~~be~~ put entirely on its own feet - independent of Philosophy or absolutely independent in the philosophical Department. This issue is not touched by your next sentence "I could see no necessity for such an action in <sup>a</sup> the University <sup>edu</sup> of ours nor do I see any necessity at the present time." I myself after a long reflection on this subject, a knowledge of what is done in other Universities, and also in view of the ~~cur~~ <sup>cur</sup> situation am

2. Sill

2

decidedly of the opinion that it is now in the interest of the University and of Psychology and of Philosophy that Psychology should be made completely independent.

*with*

(2) You go on, Sir, to state the operative "urge" or reason for a separation. "It disclosed to me that those in charge of Psychology were not at all satisfied in your direction of the Department or your appreciation of the subject. And you add that you are now confronted with Dr Hickson's resignation, the reason also being dissatisfaction with the manner with which you have guided the destinies of the Department and a conclusion that the future of the Department under your continued guidance is very dark indeed." You go on to tell me and I thank you for the confession (I know it to be sincere) that all this is very painful news to you and it means that there must be some change in the manner in which the affairs of the Department are guided and students are development and maintained." I assure you at once that there will certainly be a change and that there is nothing in the situation that I regard as hopeless. It is all colour, to me and you must know this by a personal situation. And that 3 men who perhaps have not been able to work together as a unit might do very well for their subjects and for the University when free and independent.

*coloured*

*were*

May I say that I think that the future will be dark indeed if I was supposed to carry Dr T. and H. in the future, as they have been in the past and as things have been, and are. I do not think these men want me to carry them. Dr T. wants independence and I think on the whole he should have it for various reasons. It is better for him, better for me, better for the University, better for his subjects and for my subject.

*Let's see*

( I intend to dictate some informal and descriptive remarks about the relations of Psychology and Philosophy in modern Universities. I hope that you will be pleased to read them as you are at your leisure. I think that I shall send these on in a separate letter. )

*can otherwise*

*his reasons*

Dr H. is going definitely. So he and I will not clash any more. It has been a long trial. Dr H. Has been dissatisfied with his position, and with the University for years. It is wrong to put it all on me, as the thing goes back to your predecessor, as I have previously indicated to you. It is not for me to discuss the terms of Dr H's resignation. They have not been addressed to me although he did say in other words in a friendly letter that he was not satisfied with the Department. To ~~With~~ this result he has hardly himself contributed. It is not for me to take up the ~~issue~~ for him because he talks of going into a "wider" field, of taking a big step and so on.

did

I have long wondered that he ~~take~~ not take a wider field ere this. As I may also try to indicate on a separate sheet ~~of~~ informal ~~fundamental~~ remarks ~~about~~ Dr Hickson in the past

some

issue

The whole thing may solve itself directly and simply. Dr T. has long wanted independence. (1) ~~for~~ for the logical (1) reasons of complete freedom and the teaching of his science, that has now no doubt definitely come before the world as a field on its own account. Psychology is a perfectly definite thing and a man can and should be a Professor of Psychology just as he might be a professor of anatomy or Physiology.

(2) He has desired it also for his own ambition to be an independent Professor in McGill, or any other place. He fights for this by attacking me and saying that I am conducting his affairs badly, that I am not sympathetic to the subject. I really think that after Dr T. is Associate Professor of Psychology, and that now psychology has become so complexed and so detailed he better be allowed to treat it in his own way, independently of me and philosophy (a thing of course that he has been doing for some years, with no possible or actual interference from me) Dr T., moreover, is overwhelmingly insistent on being independent of me and of philosophy because (I suppose) he would claim that for this independence he must be made a Professor. And so his long (natural) goal will be reached. I am certain that he feels that as things are I will not go to you and say that in my opinion Dr T. should be made Professor. To him naturally and associated Professor was but a "step" to the other, and Hickson and I both knew that would be immediately be the case (of course Dr H. would admit he feels that Dr T. had been promoted over his head and he certainly feels, anyhow, that T. has all along rather crowded him). He wants distinctly to be a Professor. I cannot criticise this. But I say that the time has come when I should be relieved, whether I believe in this or not, and for giving any reason for or against. He has a subject that has gone beyond my pious knowledge of it, that has now a hundred applications where other experts and psychologists alone are concerned. I think it better that Dr T. should face the University directly on his own account. He is older too, and impatient of his long career, and naturally wants his Department. He has not published books and so on and he is on the whole not known outside McGill, etc., etc. But in most places his subject is now a Department on its own account. The Professors of Philosophy can no longer carry it and are not competent to do so. They do not want it. The Psychologists ~~presents~~ presents for interference as they would resent and as they do resent priestly or clerical interference. Neither set of men wholly approves of the other. The separation has come about at many places through a quarrel, and a life-long quarrel. To the Psychologist the Philosophers are dealing with another world, with values and ideals and so on. To the Philosophers and Psychologists have gone too far, and their science is a bundle

Psychology

October X

from saying previous

result then

plan

how I to go to you and say that T. should be a university professor he would have the best of it

wishes

of tendencies." But they cannot say one word against the idea that it is for a Psychologist to say what Psychology is, and that no theory of Philosophy of religion should influence this. The State of course often witnessed, that Psychologists ~~should~~ teach more about free will and not take the determinist attitude about mind. And Psychologists reply in their own way or pay no attention to this, any more than do Physiologist when they are told that they are not keeping any account of the "vital" ~~Biblic~~ principle of the body, or of the soul.

this

Then again it certainly seems to me that Dr T. ought in future be able to choose an assistant of his own. It is not for me, or anyone else to say what that assistant should be or not be. In the recent happening when Dr T. was contending for a certain man ~~that~~ was to bring another Professor into the Department. Dr Hickson strongly suspected this and its expediency. And I did not think that another Professor should be appointed of the same rank as Dr T. etc., etc.

I dictated this yesterday afternoon after the receipt of your letter in Cambridge here. On coming back last night from the house of Professor Sorley, my friend, the professor of Moral Philosophy I felt some resentment about the one-sidedness of the things (this is perhaps perfectly natural in a personal situation) that are being said about the present and the future of the department - They have had by the way the same long struggle here about psychology, a kind of imperfect knowledge of the new experimental psychology on the part of the professors of Philosophy, then a partial recognition of it through a young lecturer and a small laboratory, then two or three different lecturers (all more or less one-sided) and then at last a big laboratory with a University grant and complete recognition of the thing and a department and absolutely independent, a department in which philosophers and teachers, and medical students, and architecture students and sociology students and political economy students, and men from the Navy in the summer months etc., etc., all take partial or extended courses. - I doubt indeed if I could go on with those two men as they are and as they have been. Dr H. has been a disappointed man for nearly twenty years and it has been a trial everyday to meet him - for him and for me I suppose. I knew everyday what he was feeling and I knew that everything was soured for him, a mere stop-gap. I told you once that men who had been at school with him (from young doctors and lawyers and others and also business men in the clubs) have asked me again and again what I could make of Dr H, what did he think he was doing, what did his manner mean, why does not someone talk to him etc, etc. ? Dr Nicholson by the way is perfectly well acquainted with all this, will tell you how Dr H. has been regarded, and how he has been regarded by the authorities of the Theological Colleges. His reason for going is uncertain, and it is a kind of ~~neat~~ dig at me - as if I had to bear) the weight of his whole career, his

This was a very hard situation

He unfair

on the surface

5

*(on the "destinies" of the department, with him as a factor in the making of those destinies.)*

treatment by the late Principal and so on and so on. Had he been made professor he would have stayed on probably. In that case however I would in a moment have petitioned for a complete autonomy for all three of us, with perhaps a yearly rotating chairmanship for the department - a very good expedient and one that is adopted in Harvard and many other places, with which a young man is often made the chairman for the time being.

As for Dr T. he is making a fight, and he is a man who believes in fighting for his ends in one way if not in another way. I do not object to his making an issue, and holding that the departmental outlook would be dark if he and his future department and assistants and policy and the psychological tendencies of to-morrow were to be tied up to me. Dr T. is also a very difficult man to get along with, brusque, headstrong, domineering, unreasoning ready to take offence. (Dr Nicholson knows about this to and I would feel strengthened if you would speak to him as one of the older men about McGill about this) I am told that other men have found it very difficult to get along with Dr T. I know that he and his intimate friend Macmillan had a bitter quarrel when returning to McGill. Macmillan said to me once that I had been very good and very patient with T., and that he sympathised with me in my difficulties in this connection.

Your knowledge of men, Sir, will tell you that we three men have probably now seen enough of each other, at least as a team. There have been poison gases accumulating about the department and now the explosion has come, when a new order and a change have become imperative. Let Dr T. get his psychology department, and let us advertise in the Medical School and elsewhere that McGill has now an independent department of psychology in which all kinds of students can get a little work or much work. This will make him a new man. He will be enthusiastic and choose his own assistants and make a life career for himself and not be tied up to an older man or to the opinions of philosophers about psychology. You will get me back enthusiastic about philosophy and ideals as at the very basis of civilisation, as imperative for the new order of society if the world is to be saved and if we are to build up a fine free civilisation in Canada etc. etc. In a year or so we will get an enthusiast for Logic and Metaphysic, a man who believes in a Metaphysic, in a higher view of things than that of the descriptive Natural Sciences, as Dr H. did not believe at least in his teaching. He was negative to this and quite unnecessarily antagonistic to theology and the churches and to social philosophy ect. etc. *He looks askance at my standing with the churches etc*

I see no objection to its being said to those who require to know that Drs H. and T. and C. had probably been tied in a team long enough, all men of a different cast, different approaches of life and thought and to a university. Now they are free or freer to follow

*to*  
*His ideas are scientific. He would almost close the University to theologs*

their bents and their experience of themselves and their subjects and each other and McGill.

You will know from the Army the terrible clash of psychological climate, the barely suppressed attitudes that often obtain between men after long waiting and after long putting up with each other. You know what junior men may often feel about a man ~~was~~ in charge of a routine position, the feeling they have that A or B or C continues responsible will likely go through the devil

*Chairs*

I could mention by name two or three men round that ~~side of~~ <sup>Faculty</sup> the table (and you will know at once the men I mean) who think that things are all blocked above them, through the professor of the department. And you know of the many severe antagonisms in this connection that have occurred in McGill. In one case the principle simply took two men into his office and made them and there shake hands. The present professor of English ~~was~~ used to say for example that he had all along the most serious kind of trouble with his aimable predecessors.

*Moise  
English*

Dr Moise used to tell me that he got on with his men by giving each one of them freedom to develop in its own way. Some of us often felt that these people put on special courses that were not perhaps desirable, but all this was inevitable. On the whole I have tried to use the method of Dr Moise by letting the men in my department develop in their own way. Freedom seemed to me an essential part of University life. And McGill has a reputation for freedom in his teaching that is one of ~~his~~ <sup>its</sup> greatest assets.

Years ago when Dr H. refused to do psychology, as not caring for it, I told the Principal that psychology was necessary and would have to be provided for. He of course knew the thing only in the old way. Through my influence with Sir William MacDonal a grant was made for psychology, ~~for~~ the MacDonal fund. He came up to me in the street one day and offered it to me after the talk I had with him. Hickson was quite unmoved by this, preferring his own critical work, although there was a professor of logic and metaphisic, namely professor Taylor. I wrote to Harvard and Dr T was mentioned. He came to us for something like 1250 dollars and soon after his marriage began to find his pay inadequate. He taught well and tried many experimental things in the way of applied psychology. Some of these gave offence like circulars ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> he send ~~to~~ the psychology advertising. Then he has been interested in other things, mental tests, the dream psychology of Freud, social psychology and so on. Recently I know that under social psychology he allowed men to examine the American belief in prohibition and so on. He also will conduct a class in the psychology of religion where not professing to know very much about religion in and for itself. And so on and so on. I always

out

~~which~~  
*white*

*But he must be free*

felt that according to his success he would get his ~~departure~~,  
 and that he would gradually become independetn of philosphy as  
 elsewhere. He has often thought that i was indifferent to his  
 interest) and that he ought to have more pay and more help. I  
 was ~~something~~ myself struggling on a small salary when he came.  
 And there was also the question of Dr H. and his promotion.  
 When Taylor left ~~he~~ was passed over again for a ~~chair~~ chair and  
 Professor Watson of Queens' was nearly brought down to it. Dr H  
 was then made assistant Professor and later on he was given a  
 seat on the faculty to "interest" him in things. And later he was  
 made associate professor, as probably all that he would ever be in  
 the department. It has been a long struggle for us all, and after  
 publishing my books (I find that I am known by these in a moment  
 wherever I go, a ~~rushing~~ professor came up to me a month ago in  
 Prague, and said that he read my books, mentioning the years when  
 they appear) I have done all I could to make philosoy in the life  
 of the University, to make it useful to men going forward into  
 the important work of the Ministry, to the theologic student  
 interested in social philosphy. I hope to do more of this when I  
 come back. I was naturally glad to have you say in an earlier  
 letter that "of course the students miss me."

Hudson

Russian

In other words doctors T and H have been left with their  
 destiny to make it for themselves. This destiny has now made us  
 somewhat apart as is perhaps inevitable in the case of men in  
 middle life.

There is another way of trying to run a department, by  
 regimenting everything, and by getting men who will be regimented.  
 This was the method of one of our colleagues as you know. And  
 it has apparently eneded in a separated of subjects and so on  
 and a recognition of the hopeless differences between men.

in

Lafleur finally got his complete independence in English  
 being made professor of Comparative Literature, his life-long  
 interest. I think Dr T. should get his independence as associate  
 professor or Acting-professor of psychology, taking his fate of  
 the University into his own hands (he is certainly as fit to  
 represent Psychology as our colleague Brockwell is to represent  
 Hebrew, and ~~Tate~~ no doubt feels this, although I would rather not  
 have made the comparison or the reference).

with  
Tate

Of course Drs T. and H. have never been called to any other  
 place outside McGill. I often told them both to publish books and  
 go to Philosophical and Psychological meetings, and that a call  
 somewhere might come to them. Had a call come - no doubt a kind  
 of test - the University would then have been able to say what it  
 would do. Your predecessor used to say to me often that Dr H.  
 would never have but a position anywhere else than in McGill.  
 When H. used to ask him for promotion he simply said, what has he  
 done, come let him show what he has done? He knew too that H. was  
 not very popular with the students, that in fact he was unpopular.

set

\*I believe in this for the younger men. Too many of them put "set right."

8

*Hicks*  
Had ~~he~~ been popular, and a big success as a teacher, he would likely have got a Chair when my predecessor resigned. Your predecessor once told me that he handed on my testimonials to H. to look at and told him that that was the kind of thing they looked into in the case of a vacancy.

*man*  
I know as you must that even between Departments there is often very sharp opposition to what some professor is supposed to be teaching and the way he teaches it. ~~Many~~ in allied subjects, Law, Philosophy, Politics administration etc. have often very pronounced views about each other. We in the Faculty for example would like our friend Leacock to separate Political Economy and Political Science, and perhaps there should be an independent department for Political Science or Government. And some would say that the outlook is dark or hopeless as long as certain men are heads and so on.

But the world is wide and so are universities, and this thing goes on everywhere. Men work themselves free of restrictions and get their freedom, and a chance to assert their personalities, which is no doubt the best thing for the University.

Step in Sir! ~~and~~ in your fine strong way and free us all, and make us all remain friends for the sake of the University, recognising each others strong points instead of dwelling on the corresponding defects. And thus there will come the change that is really imperative in the Department. It has perhaps been brewing long, and as I say it often happens this sort of thing.

*Hicks*  
Instead of being indifferent to psychology, I <sup>look</sup> ~~got~~ it up with the authorities and got the money for it. I used to take charts and diagrams and books in to Sir William Macdonald, and persuaded him against his laughter and smiles that there was really something here. I pushed the subject when ~~Hixley~~ was indifferent to it although it was about the only thing that he could have done at the time because there were two other professors. Your predecessor at the time did not know about the new movement and I had to persuade him. Dr T. really owes his place to me, and I have at different times spoken for his promotion, although partly offending him by telling him that he ought to publish. I still think that men ought to do this, and I still think that Drs H. and T. like many other men have their hours and hours to discuss and criticise things, including the administration of the University and all the head professors when they might have been writing. Of recent years I have given up trying to advise them as they were certainly old enough to know what they wanted in life.

The way is clear now for Dr T. to be independent. Last year Dr H. would strongly have resented this. (1) He thinks that Dr T.

*Knew*

has got on too rapidly, that he has more salary etc.  
(2) He thinks that he himself can still do some general psychol-  
ogy if he wants to, like lectures on the relation of mind and  
body etc., etc. Both H. and I know that Dr T. once made  
Associate Professor would ~~go on~~ to be Professor. H. is not too  
keen on this. You can see from this and other things that some-  
times I have had both Drs T. and H. in a kind of opposition  
against my suggestions, and I have sometimes had one as it were  
against the other - more Dr H. against Dr T.

*want*

For years I have said to Dr T. before Dr. H.: of course the  
University can take you to-morrow and make you an independent  
professor, and if it wishes to do this, we can have nothing  
against it, and we will only help you and recommend students to  
take Psychology, as you will like to tell some of your students  
to take Philosophy."

You can see that I have been misrepresented in regard to  
Psychology etc. I have pushed it in season and out of season.  
I do not think too much of some of their alleged results and the  
thing has been very miscellaneous, I can find no unified psychol-  
ogy. Macdougall of Harvard, the Professor of Psychology holds  
this. I have just read his new book. But this is no longer my  
business. Our opinion is not wanted and not considered. The  
fight for freedom has been on and the psychologists have hit  
heavily just as have all of us against ecclesiastical control and  
so on in other things. Autonomy and self-examination are the  
order of the day. Dr T. is chafing under his restriction. Let  
him be free and then you will get his best and I will wish him  
well.

*Tait  
knows  
this*

*(I have begged Tait to write out a unified account  
of the mind.)*

*And Jackson (a Tait) to write a story of the  
psychological movement of the last 20 years*

I have saved Dr H.'s University life two or three times. That is to say your predecessor instead of promoting him would have kept him on a pittance (which of course he doesn't need) hoping perhaps that he might withdraw, or go to some other place. The first time was soon after Taylor and I came to the University. We were told that H. would do "experimental psychology." He did not want to, feeling crowded out of the logic and theory of knowledge work that were given to Taylor. He thought of resigning, but for some reasons stayed on and was allowed to stay on in the position of a lecturer. The second time was in 1908 I think when Taylor left. Your predecessor was nearly bringing down Professor Watson from Queen's which would have again put out Hickson's work. I told the Principal that ~~he~~ had been kept on so long that it might be well for many reasons to retain him in the University. Although a man of culture in Montreal ~~he~~ went to London, or Vienna or Oxford or Aberdeen, nobody would know him. He has never written a "review" of a philosophical book or magazine. He has written critically to the papers now and then against men like Sir Oliver Lodge and for the University Magazine where of course the writing of no McGill could ever be refused. If he thinks that I bluff him and that the outlook is dark from his point of view, he ought to know that his going renders it to some extent less dark for several reasons, unpleasant though it may be to refer to these. He is unfortunately not popular as a man with the students. He is not popular as a teacher, his work is thought of as negative and critical, and the theological colleges have again and again complained to the authorities about some of his tendencies, as they have also about the denial of the freedom of the will (or the determinism) that is said to be taught by Dr Tait. I was told by the way by one of the Principals that if T. went on teaching Psychology, they would start a separate class of their own. Of course one can never consider any criticism against the freedom of a university teacher to teach what he thinks he can prove. But to return to Dr H. his going away from McGill no doubt clears the air from many things. And I frankly wonder that he didn't years ago prefer a free life to the restricted and half kind of life that for different reasons he has had in McGill. I try always as I am speaking to think of the fine side of the devotion of a man who is "well off" to theory and to scientific philosophy in a mercantile city and a business age. I repeat that again and again when he and I have had to take combination courses, I have been asked by the men, if it were really necessary to take Dr H.'s half of the work to get my half.

Hickson  
 of Hickson  
 in  
 Black.

Determinism  
 (Hickson's  
 also known  
 as  
 Determinist.)

in

As for Dr T. I have just referred to one criticism of his teaching that however unjustifiable from the dogmatic point of view has no doubt been disadvantageous to the department. I think that Dr Tait has yet to work his way to a full, free apprehension of the mental and moral and spiritual life of man.

especially the recent damned SSX-stuff  
of Freud, and the old psychology that was 1/2  
physics and 1/2 physiology

I would say the same thing about Dr H. They know that I think this about them and their lack of reasoned belief in the personality of man. They would say that I do not take the laboratory point of view, and that the future of the Department is dark because I do not take it. By God, Sir, it would be dark if I did.

Do not mistake stirrings and strugglings and antagonism in a Department for a condemnation of it, for calling it unsatisfactory. They are birth-pangs.

I object to the idea that I have presided over the destinies of the Department. No man can make the destiny of another man, unless we believe in the faulty scientific determinism of some psychologists, and scientists. Men make their own destiny. Then the destinies in Philosophy have been partly determined by the action of your predecessor. Dr T. had a very serious war with the late Principal when he came back from the War. He tried to hold up your predecessor and made himself very objectionable.

As to the matter of promotion and an independent Department, Dr T. took the ground when he came here that a Dr Degree from Harvard was quite enough to make a man a Professor anywhere. I told him years ago that I did not see this. I always told him to publish things that would give him a name outside McGill. I have heard him begin again and again to criticise the standing of Professors in the University who had an international name in their subjects. He and Dr H. have always been tremendous critics of the past policy of the University.

V.  
I think I had better stop meantime. I want to say definitely that I have been profoundly dissatisfied with some things obtaining in the Department of Philosophy - it is not mine, and it could not be, it is the University's. I am just as much against these men in many ways as they are against me. The complaints that I have got against them for years (and your predecessor used to hear them and pass them on to me) were enough to sink a Department of Philosophy. I bore with them because (1) these men were in the University and were placed there just as much as I had been; (2) because I thought that they would out-grow them when they were older and had more experience of life. I thought they would out-grow their scientific prejudices against Philosophy. I think that Dr T. has to some extent. But Dr H. is still a good deal of a voltarian - out to smash something or their logical grounds - illogical to him. There is a big battle between us, and it is a life battle.

Prague University is facing the same thing about the appointment of a Psychologist. The Professors of Philosophy disbelieve in a whole lot of stuff that has been taught under the name of Psychology.

The University, however, will be obliged to have a Department of Psychology, and it must be free, for they

Voltarian free thinkers

Say to-day that psychology is one of the natural sciences like biology or anthropology. It might be put in a department anthropology, as is partly done at Columbia University.

Ask Richie, Principal Smythe, Fraser and Professor A.R. Gordon (Hebrew) about how our teaching, the three of us is regarded.

If it were not for <sup>(3)</sup> <sup>(4)</sup> one my Introduction to Philosophy two (2) Moral Philosophy, ~~three~~ Principles of Social Philosophy the department of philosophy would be condemned as materialistic and physiological, as negative to personality and metaphysic and ideals

to <sup>the</sup>  
In No. 1 I give/the young minds of young students the ideals on which ~~are~~ civilisation rests, and, outline, of the great speculative attempts of the human mind.

<sup>or</sup> In No. 2 the "Moral Philosophy is made obligatory by the theological colleges and all their men."

<sup>It</sup> No. 3 I want to get back again, to for sociology cannot be materialistic. I am over wondering how the new sociology is doing. Must have <sup>to</sup> approved philosophy of society as ~~is debated~~. <sup>its basis</sup>

<sup>then</sup> I will add that the whole idea of water-tight "departments" is largely American, and especially the idea of managing, as you do a department ~~xxxxx~~ stores. No University man to-day believes in iron-bound departments. You cannot rope together a lot of subjects which may not go together. Subjects are always bursting their bonds, as you know as in the case of <sup>physiological</sup> psychology chemistry Or as in the case of psychology. And the new man who is appointed to these things will accept no dictation from the men who represent the older subjects. He alone knows his job.

I have been seeing the international congress of pschologists here have visited Cambridge from Oxford. It has all been pretty hard during my dear wife's illness.

<sup>when I come back</sup>  
Yours ever faithfully,

William Caldwell

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Toronto,.....June 8th.....1921.....

Sir Arthur Currie,  
President,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, Que.

Dear Sir Arthur:

I had the pleasure of being one of a team of speakers on social welfare subjects at a series of conventions held in the rural portions of Quebec province recently, the ground covered being mainly the counties of Huntingdon, Chateaugay and Beauharnois.

Dr. W. B. Tait, Professor of Psychology in McGill, was one of the team. I was profoundly impressed with two things in the case of Professor Tait; first his manifestly exceptional ability which was uniformly appreciated and admired by the audiences; second, the service that incidentally it seemed to me, he was rendering to the University of McGill. Bright young people gathered about him in groups at the close of each session and were propounding all kinds of questions growing out of his addresses and thus becoming increasingly interested in McGill University. I can conceive of no publicity work and no extension work of greater value than that which was incidentally rendered by Professor Tait in addressing these social welfare conventions.

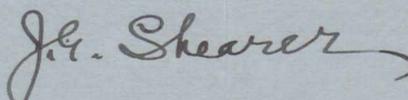
I have no doubt you have many professors in McGill who could do similar work and I have long felt that more or less popular extension lecturing might well be

made use of to a much greater extent than at present by our Canadian Universities.

In any case you have an exceptionally able and valuable man in Professor Tait. Pardon the liberty I take in sending on this statement and suggestion.

Wishing you all success as President of McGill, I am

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J.G. Shearer". The signature is written in dark ink and has a fluid, connected style.

General Secretary.

JGS/D

June  
Tenth  
1921.

Dr. John G. Shearer,  
504-5 Confederation Life Bldg.,  
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Dr. Shearer:-

I thank you most warmly for your  
letter of June 8th.

It is gratifying to know that those  
interested in Social Service work in Canada regard  
Dr. W. B. Tait so favourably. We feel at McGill  
that in him we have a valuable man and one who has  
developed very much in recent years. You will be  
glad to know that the Board of Governors yesterday  
approved his being raised to the rank of Associate  
Professor.

Cordially reciprocating your good  
wishes, I am,

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

100  
MCGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL.

FACULTY OF ARTS  
PSYCHOLOGICAL LABORATORY

May 30, 1921.

Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal McGill University,  
Montreal, Que.

Sir:

During a conversation with regard to the status of Psychology you asked me to prepare a list of the chief universities in U.S.A. where it was a department by itself. I have now much pleasure in submitting this list. The reason for delay is due to the fact that on my return from Harvard I was booked for a series of lectures in this Province, which occupied all of last week. These lectures were given under the auspices of the Social Service Council of Canada and were well received.

I remain, sir,

very respectfully yours

*William D. Fair*

Some of the principal universities where psychology  
is a separate department.

California

Leland Stanford

Johns Hopkins

Ohio State

North Western

Pennsylvania

Princeton

Chicago

Illinois

Clark

Cambridge, Eng.

Toronto

Columbia (In this university part of it is in  
philos. and part with education.)

Carnegie Institute Pittsburg.

Harvard (Psych. is one of three in a Division  
including Philos. and Social Ethics.)

W.S.P.

McGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL.

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

April 16, 1921

Principal Sir Arthur Currie,  
LL.D. etc.

Dear Mr Principal,

In view of the Department of Philosophy may I  
submit to you the following resolution and recommendation:

That it is in the interest of the present and desired  
future of the Department of Philosophy, in the interest of the University  
as a whole, as well as of that of the deserts and the legitimate  
encouragement of the two men immediately concerned, that  
Assistant-Professor W.D. Tait be now promoted to the rank  
status of Associate-Professor of Psychology, and that  
Associate-Professor J.W.A. Hixson be accorded the rank of  
"Professor" - either as Professor of Logic and Metaphysics, or as  
"Frothingham Professor" of Logic and Metaphysics - a chair that  
existed some years ago in the Department - as may be  
best determined by the Governors of the University.

It is much to be desired that these two changes may be made  
together now, and it is our opinion that they can easily be  
affected - even in the supposed straitened conditions of the  
University. Their institution would make for harmony and  
enthusiasm in the Department, and would be welcomed by  
colleagues and friends.

~~Copy~~  
~~W.S.~~

File under  
Psy chology

December 15, 1924.

Dr. C. F. Martin,  
Dean, Faculty of Medicine,  
McGill University, Montreal.

Dear Mr. Dean,

This is to thank you for your very cordial letter of the 9th. inst. with reference to Miss Russell. My purpose in mentioning the matter to Mr. Hincks (I was writing him on other business) was to emphasise the importance of scholarship. I think that you will agree with me that the two years Social Service Course is not a serious matter when compared with the Course leading to the B.A. Degree. In the former there is little science and no mathematics, the latter so necessary in treating social statistics.

Twelve Hundred dollars is a handsome amount and should not necessarily go to those who are merely interested and serious but to individuals who at the same time possess a certain amount of brains. Good intentions should not be confused with ability. To my way of thinking it should be a Graduate reward for work well and faithfully done with strong indications of more to follow.

At present, there is too much propoganda and froth in connection with social reform activities and

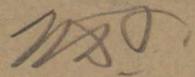
university people should set their faces against all semblance of sham, pretence and superficiality. What is required is more quiet work by those who possess the needed intellectual tools. Two years study is insufficient and the very minimum should be the possession of an Arts Degree with high standing in all subjects. Unless some such standard is set up and maintained the work will not command respect among those who know what the term scientific research means.

I have written frankly and openly my own personal convictions which may be entirely wrong. It is only by the exchange of ideas that progress is possible for no man liveth to himself.

With renewed expressions of regard

I remain

very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'W.S.D.' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

February  
Ninth  
1923.

Professor J. C. Simpson,  
Medical Building.

Dear Professor Simpson:-

The Principal has asked me to acknowledge your letter of February 8th with reference to the course in Psychology, and to say that he has forwarded it to Dean Laing for action.

Yours faithfully,

Principal's Secretary.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING EQUIPMENT IN EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY.

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Some four or five years ago, McGill began to receive from Sir William Macdonald the annual sum of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) for Experimental Psychology. Of this sum, some \$580 have been spent, leaving a cash balance of about \$950 up to July 1, 1909. What has been bought includes a chronoscope and various pieces of apparatus necessary or desirable in <sup>teaching</sup> understanding the Psychology of the brain, the phenomena of colour, of sound etc. More detailed information regarding this could be obtained from Dr. Hickson, who has had, up to the present, charge of this work in Experimental Psychology. It is well to state, however, that McGill for one reason or another has made but a very tentative beginning in this whole matter. The demand for experimental work has not yet been stimulated to any great extent. There has also been difficulty about the appropriation of rooms for experimental purposes. All this, however, would doubtless be changed by the presence of a competent man in the subject who would be enthusiastic enough to develop a real interest in experimental work in the University. Arrangements in McGill have necessarily been in abeyance for some years. Interest, however, in experimental work has been expressed in different quarters of the University and