

College Press

COMPULSORY LECTURES AGAIN (McGill Daily)

The matter of compulsory lectures at McGill has not been discussed, perhaps, as long as the Arts Building—but it has been brought to our attention frequently during the last few years. It is indeed timely that the subject be again introduced for, now, that the Faculty of Arts is to experience an outward change some change in the inner form might be advisable. It is an alteration in which no delay is necessary. There are no financial problems, such as we had in the case of the Arts Building, involved; no detailed plans are

needed. All that is required is a simple piece of legislation, and the handing out to the student of "sugar-coated" lectures in fixed doses and the element of compulsion, so disagreeable in any event, would be terminated. Added independence would be given the student. As an inevitable result we would get the stimulation of keener and more original research at McGill.

Let us see what our own principal has to say on the subject. In Sir Arthur Currie's annual report we find:

"The evils of overlecturing are obvious enough. Three lectures per diem given at irregular hours both in the morning day overmuch and so tend to cause the formation of divided desultory habits of daily work. When compulsory lectures are so frequent the contents of the lectures themselves accumulate so rapidly that even the most careful thorough student is compelled to make the lectures the basis of his study and to confine his independent study to such small parts of the subject as will best serve to complete his lecture notes for examination purposes. Finally the habit of dumb listening to oral lectures month after month for four long years always tends, slowly but surely, to undermine the student's natural initiative to undertake free, independent study an dresearch of his own in any subject."

The lecture system as a whole is week, and the compulsory system only serves to make it weaker. The students—as Sir Arthur points out realizing only too well the inadequacies of the present method—become mere fact-receptacles. They must absorb the lectures and when they have absorbed them no time is left to original study and work on the subject—that original study and work which is more important, more significant than all the lectures combined.

What is more the vast majority of students—the average students—under the present system of lectures, possessing no critical faculty of their own, unable to discern between one viewpoint and another, take every statement handed out to them for granted and after duly digesting and memorizing these statements return them to the professor by the way of the examination paper. How bored the professor must have been to have his own opinions and ideas thrown back at him in this way! How much better would it be if the student could at least show on his examination some results of his own reading and study—some conclusions which he himself has reached! Instead of encouraging keen, logical criticism and thought the present lecture system serves to blunt the appetite for knowledge, to dull the mental faculties, to bore a student for four long years and then send him out stuffed with numerous facts, totally unable to use his own brains intelligently.

Furthermore, how jarring it is for a student who has done excellent work by himself to receive a note the day before an examination informing him that he has missed more than

one eighth of his lectures and therefore will not be permitted to write. Quite often, were that student given an opportunity to write he would submit a far better paper than the many pluggers who, having recorded everything faithfully, like gramophones, begin to repeat all when the order is given to begin writing.

Those who have experienced the delights of independent research, of contrast and study, of using lectures merely as guides to intellectual food, rather than as the food itself, of digging out and making discoveries—all shout loudly for a change. Perhaps, in this age of rapidly moving events at McGill the time is not too remote when compulsory lectures will no longer exist here? The legislation could be slow and steady. We could start by emancipating the seniors. After a time we could project the legislation and give the juniors liberty. At a still later date the sophomores might be included. Only for the freshmen would the present rule remain. As newcomers to college they must of necessity become acquainted with the general trend of college life. One year of tedious note-taking and boredom should not be too harmful for first year students

Twenty Years Ago

Dr. H. L. Shantz, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, delivered the annual address before the local chapters of Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi at the Temple Theater. His subject was illustrated.

Thirteen snappy skits were secured for the Pan-Hellenic stunt program given at the Alpha Sigma Phi house. Fraternity and sorority Greeks arranged an evening of local talent production that was expected to mark the inauguration of an annual affair among the secret organizations.

During four hours of one day more than two hundred students were turned away from the library on account of insufficient accommodations for study.

Bible study work, instituted in the University fraternities, was meeting with good success.

There was unusual activity in University athletics. Never had Nebraska experienced so busy and successful an indoor season. All teams sent out brought credit to themselves and the institution they represented.

On The Air

University Studio broadcasting over KPAB (340.7)

Wednesday, February 24  
9:30 to 9:55 a. m. Weather report by Prof. T. A. Blair. Road report and Announcements.

10:30 to 11:00 a. m. "Meal Planning an Important Factor in the Home," by Miss Maude Vedder, Instructor in the Textiles and Clothing Division, Department of Home Economics.

1:15 to 1:30 p. m. "The Choice of a Life Work," by C. A. Fulmer, State Director of Vocational Education.

Musical numbers by Miss Mary Elizabeth Sproul, Contralto.

3:00 to 3:30 p. m. Third lecture of a Radio-Correspondence Course for Credit on Act 1, Scene 3 and 4 of "The Philosophy of a Ranchman of U"—an interpretation of the Book of Job, by Professor F. A. Stuff, of the Department of English, (Professional). For outlines and suggestive questions, address the University Extension Division.

8:05 to 8:30 p. m. "Control of Some Insect Pests of the Season" by N. H. Ewenk, Professor of Entomology.

"Dairy Sire Exchange—The Bull Association," by E. N. Hansen, Instructor in Dairying.

Illinois To Have Broadcaster  
Western Electric Company is to erect a new radio broadcasting station, WILL, at the University of Illinois at an estimated cost of \$7,000



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Freshmen are Under Rules

Freshmen of University of California are now prohibited to talk to women on the campus or smoke anything but a corn cob pipe, and of course wear nothing but the "Frosh" hat.

"The Road To Glory," An Original Story and an Unusual Theme.

At the Orpheum This Week

"The Road to Glory" which has a five-day run at the Orpheum this week is the road that leads to glorious entertainment with May McAvoy in the leading feminine role. It is a vivid dream of Fate, with a beautiful girl as its victim.

There's folly at the start, temptation along the way and disaster at the end. "The Road to Glory" is the Devil's own highway. Don't miss this remarkable romance and other entertaining features which will be presented every day this week except Saturday.—Adv.

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**Colleen Moore**  
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"IRENE"  
With Charlie Murray  
On the Stage  
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Singing and Playing the  
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WILBUR CHENOWETH  
Concert Organist  
SHOWS AT—1, 3, 5, 7, 9.  
MAT. 35c—NITE 50c—CHILD. 10c

**LYRIC** ALL THIS WEEK  
A Drama Bursting with Thrills and Laughs—  
**Vera Reynolds**  
In the Romantic Story  
"Steel Preferred"  
—also—  
NEWS & COMEDY PICTURES  
ON THE STAGE  
The Original Miss Personality  
**Mildred Melrose**  
"Queen of the Charleston"  
EVERY NIGHT—7:00 and 9:00  
Prize Amateur  
**CHARLESTON CONTEST**  
SHOWS AT—1, 3, 5, 7, 9.

**COLONIAL** ALL THIS WEEK  
Another Tremendous Picture  
The Story That Made the Whole World Laugh—  
"A Connecticut Yankee"  
with a superb cast  
Also  
"The Adventure of Mazie"  
Final Story  
Visualized World News  
SHOWS AT 1, 3, 5, 7, 9.

**ORPHEUM** ALL THIS WEEK EXCEPT SATURDAY  
See This Unusual and Vivid Drama—  
William Fox Presents  
"THE ROAD TO GLORY"  
IT'S THE DEVILS OWN HIGHWAY  
Also Other Entertaining Pictures  
SHOWS AT 1, 3, 5, 7, 9.  
MAT. 15c—NITE 25c—CHILD. 10c.

**LAUREL** ALL THIS WEEK  
WHERE EVERYBODY GOES  
MON.—TUES.—WED.  
Vaudeville's Daintiest Dancer  
**Dorothy Byton**  
In a Beautiful Offering with  
A Sextette of Freely  
"SNAPPY STEPPERS"  
The Master Mind of Poetry  
**EDDIE FOYER**  
"The Man of a Thousand Poses"  
**Keene & Williams**  
In Their Laughable Rural Skit  
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**EL COTA**  
With the Versatile Dancer  
**BEE BYRNE**  
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**UKELELE CONTEST**  
—also—  
**HENRY DIXON**  
"Uke Wizard"  
RABICH and the ORCHESTRA  
SHOWS AT 2:30, 7:00, 9:00

**Rialto Theatre** ALL THIS WEEK  
**Harold Lloyd**  
In His Greatest Laugh Hit  
"The Freshman"  
HELEN WETTMANN  
"JUST A COTTAGE SMALL"  
News—Topics—Reviews—Sportlight  
SHOWS AT—1, 3, 5, 7, 9.  
MAT. 25c—Nite 35c—CHILD. 10c

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