

### **This issue marks an anniversary**

In early 1959 Mr. J. W. Perks arranged a meeting to discuss a proposal to provide at Macdonald College courses for regular class teachers wishing to become special class teachers. This meeting was attended by Dr. Alistair McLeod of the Mental Hygiene Institute, Dave Monroe from Macdonald, and Lorne Hamilton, Howard Stutt, and Bill Perks from the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal. Up to that time teachers who wished this specialized training had had to go to such places as Toronto, New York, or Rochester. It was proposed by Perks that McGill offer a one-summer program and that the Department of Education and the P.S.B.G.M. provide financial support.

This proposal was accepted and in the summer of 1959 a modest beginning was made. Howard Stutt was invited to offer a course on exceptional children. The following summer a three-course unit was presented. In 1962 a three-summer program leading to a Special Education Teacher's Certificate was initiated. In 1968 Stutt, who had been in charge of the summer program since 1959, became a full time member of the Faculty; the courses were offered for the first time in winter and in off-campus locations, Hull and Lennoxville being the first; and a new M.Ed. (Special Ed.) program was begun. Throughout this time encouragement and support was given by Dr. Sam Rabinovitch, the Director of the Montreal Children's Hospital Learning Centre.

The program this year celebrates the completion of twenty years of activity centered on the Department of Educational Psychology and Sociology. There are over 1200 teachers taking courses in Special Education and over 100 in the M.Ed. program. A beginning has been made on a Master of Arts program; the first student graduated this spring. Courses in the Diploma/Certificate program have been given in all parts of the province of Quebec, including Schefferville, the Magdalen Islands, the Gaspé, and the Arctic, as well as in locations in the Montreal area. This program has been the leader in the development of off-campus courses at McGill.

**H.A.S.**

### **The Panel**

The Editor wishes to thank Professors Bernard Birch, Frank Greene, Dorothy Sokolyk, and Howard Stutt for their generous advice and assistance in planning and assembling this special issue.