

LAW SCHOOL NEWS.

NOTRE DAME'S LEGAL RE- NAISSANCE

(By Delmar J. Edmundson)

It's an ill wind, as the philosophers say so aptly and frequently, that blows nobody good. Several years ago, when an intermittent fire gnawed persistently at the old Chemistry Hall till nothing but the walls remained, it would have taken a keen and optimistic eye to discern a silver lining in that catastrophe. But what at first blush seemed a tomb stone happily proved a stepping stone to better things. A new Chemistry Hall, proof against flame, was erected back of the charred shell of the old, and lo! from that shell emerged the new improved Law College.

In the embryo days of that department the learned but handicapped professors held forth always within the cramped space of one room; legal maxims, thundered into attentive ears, echoed from one wall to another, walls that must have grown weary of the rule in Shelley's Case. Those long, sturdy benches, through generation after generation of law students were victims of the sculptural aspirations of men who had little talent but much energy and sharp knives. Thus if they found Blackstone not to their taste, circumstances were not lacking to encourage an emulation of Praxiteles.

That same room knew many able men, professors who strongly builded the foundations, and students who reared the structure to do Alma Mater proud in forensic circles. Under the circumstances the wonder is that so much was accomplished. Timothy E. Howard, Lucius Hubbard, Colonel

Hoynes—these are the founders, names to be forever honored at Notre Dame, men who, under un auspicious conditions, steered the unwieldy bark to recognition and honor. Though the visible manifestations of their work passed with the old law room their memory remains dear to thousands of alumni in the legal profession.

Erected on the site of the first Chemistry Hall, the new building wherein was established the Hoynes College of Law, stands as a symbol of the new regime. Improvements are manifold; facilities for assimilation of jurisprudence notably increased—a change which works to the consternation of the “snap course” man, who no longer finds a law degree the easiest, but rather one of the hardest to acquire.

The law library constantly grows in size and catholicity. The law faculty is to be increased to a number more readily able to handle the overflow of incipient barristers. The law building contains a fully equipped court room, behind whose bench a Marshall might be honored to sit. Courses in procedural law and court schedule have been inaugurated by the new dean, Judge Vurpillat, which are unique and exceptional in the law schools of the country. These and countless other changes, of which it would be useless to attempt an enumeration, have been made. The scribe may recount the various forward steps that have been taken, but it were almost impossible to describe the new spirit that pervades the department, a spirit of proud contentment and achievement that is, it may be said, an inevitable accompaniment

of the advance in legal paraphernalia and environment. But these changes are not the only ones to be recorded. Those in the personnel of the faculty are of as great an importance.

Judge Francis J. Vurpillat, proclaimed Dean of the College of Law at the beginning of the school year, is a man whose wide experience and scholarly mind eminently fit him for the position. During his long and brilliant career he served in various official capacities, notably as prosecuting attorney of the 44th Judicial Circuit of Indiana for three consecutive terms, and for several years as County Attorney and as City Attorney at Winamac, his native city. In November, 1908, he was elected Judge of the 44th Judicial Circuit and served in that incumbency for six years. In addition to the fame attained in virtue of the fact that he was the youngest circuit judge ever elected in Indiana, Judge Vurpillat gained prominence and favorable comment from the bench and the bar on account of written opinions delivered in cases of unusual importance tried by him, among which were the Kankakee Meander Land case; another case involving the construction and constitutionality of the Fee and Salary Law; and another placing the first construction on the general liquor laws of the state, particularly the local option law and the Proctor Regulation Act, a construction affirmed by the State Supreme Court. Judge Vurpillat was called

to the Law College in 1915 by the Rev. John Cavanaugh, the then president, and since that time has devoted his talents and energies exclusively to the work of acting dean. The leadership of Judge Vurpillat augurs well for the Law College, and much may be expected from his administration.

Colonel William Hoynes is honored as Dean Emeritus of the Law College. For his past services none can fail to pay him admiring reverence; the University is rich indeed in the benison of his genial personality and profound erudition. Next year Colonel Hoynes will give active service as a special lecturer in Legal Ethics and International Law, of which he is a recognized authority.

Assistant Professor James P. Costello, who recently joined the law faculty, received his degree from the Dickinson School of Law in 1898, after fifteen years experience as a teacher in the public schools of Pennsylvania. During the past twenty-two years he has been in active practice at Hazelton, Pennsylvania.

The Law College will continue to boast the invaluable services of Professor John Tiernan, whose astounding display of mnemonics in citing cases is at once the marvel and the despair of students, and of Judge G. A. Farabaugh, who, besides lecturing at Notre Dame, continues to serve as one of the most prominent attorneys before the bar of South Bend.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES.

ALDEN J. CUSICK.

THE NOTRE DAME LAW CLUB.

On Monday evening, February 2nd, in conformity with plans which had been brewing for several years back, all the Lawyers of the University met in a rousing mass meeting and perfected an organization to be known as the Notre Dame Law Club. A constitution previously drafted was read and adopted. The following officers were elected for the year: Alden J. Cusick, President; Harry E. Denny, Vice-President; Francis T. Walsh, Secretary; Clifford E. O'Sullivan, Treasurer; and Hugh E. Gibbons, Sergeant-at-Arms.

The purpose of the organization, quoting from the Constitution, is: "The general diffusion of legal knowledge among the students of the Law School by stimulating study of the law in its broader aspect; and the promotion of a fraternal spirit among its members by providing a medium for social activity." All who are acquainted with the facts will readily see that the perfection of the Notre Dame Law Club supplies a long felt and earnest need of the College of Law which, in point of enrollment and instruction is now acknowledged to rank with the best in the States.

The time has forever passed when the college-bred lawyer of the progressive type can be a mere compendium of legal doctrines and theories which were stored in his brain by the stern tactics of the class room. It is the human heart-to-heart touch of fraternity which really puts the aspirant for an LL. B. sheepskin in a receptive mood and heightens his ambition to know the law. Through the agency of their Club the law students

seek to get in touch with the more practical side of the law, and to that end to hear frequently from men who are now fighting the legal battles of their communities and are therefore in a position to give to the N. D. Lawyers a few of the gems of their experience.

On February 20th the "Club" listened to a very interesting and instructive talk by Mr. Wm. McInerny of South Bend, an old Notre Dame law graduate and contemporary practitioner. Mr. McInerny dwelt on Public Utility Law and it is the unanimous opinion of all who heard him that his speech was "great." During the remainder of the term the Law Club will hear from other well known attorneys. And among those who have already accepted invitations to speak are Mr. Farabough of South Bend, one of Indiana's real lawyers, and Mr. P. H. Martin of Green Bay, Wisconsin, a criminal lawyer of wide repute.

The Law Club supplies another great need of the College lawyer, the opportunity for fraternizing. Through the instrumentality of smokers, banquets and other social functions the magic warmth of fraternity will be infused into every man. The Notre Dame Lawyer of the future need never be forced to an embarrassing admission that he is not acquainted with his classmates or junior associates in the course. And what's more he can boast of a friendship of brother students from nearly every state in the Union, for enrollment records show that twenty-eight states are now represented in the College of Law and reports emanating

from the office of Dean Francis J. Vurpillat give good basis for the prophecy that the time is not far distant when each of the forty-eight states will have one or more representatives. The value of so-called "mixing" between men from every section of the country; between men all working toward a common goal cannot be overestimated, and particularly so when applied to the law school and the legal profession. In the social activities of the Club two smokers have already gone into history. A big all-lawyers banquet is booked for an early date. A committee, under chairmanship of Leo Hassenaer, reports that indications point to one of the most elaborate and enjoyable social events of the year when the Notre Dame Law Club gathers 'round the festive board. Several Chicago lawyers of prominence have been invited to speak on this occasion.

Let no man accuse the Notre Dame Lawyers of being dead or inert. They pull together with a spirit which it would do others well to imitate. The snappy co-operation and good fellowship in evidence at every meeting is a worthy inspiration. They are as one in active interest and support of the two-fold aim of their organization: to get in touch with the practical side of the law; and through social activity, to fuse the hearts of all the law men into a common bond of friendship. Look for inspiration on the Notre Dame Law Club. It will surprise you.

SENIOR LAW CLASS.

On October 15th the last three year law class to leave the portals of the Notre Dame Law School organized

and elected the following officers to represent them for the year: President, Edw. Doran of South Bend, Ind.; Vice-President, Clifford O'Sullivan of Chicago, Ill.; Secretary, H. L. Leslie of Waverly, Ia.; Treasurer, Maurice Smith of Manketo, Ill.; and Sergeant-at-Arms, George L. Murphy of St. Cloud, Minn. On but a few occasions indeed, has the Law School had cause to boast of a graduating class with the "snap" and talent of that which leaves the halls of the Gold and Blue this coming June. Its members have been prominent in every activity of the campus and have made a record which should be a fitting goal for subsequent "grads" to attain.

On two occasions during the present school year have the members of the class drunk the rich wine of good-fellowship over the banquet board, first in November and again just prior to the Christmas vacation. On each occasion the walls of Kable's parlors echoed with the convivial laughter of a class which, though scattered in fact will ever be united in fond recollection of the few sweet and profitable years at Notre Dame in companionship of the "boys" of '20. The above banquets were enjoyed by senior lawyers exclusively. But on Sunday, Feb. 15th, they also participated with the seniors of the other courses in a big all-senior feast in the Rotary Room of the Oliver Hotel. And not the least of the many never-to-be-forgotten high spots of this event was the masterly oration of President Doran on "Sunshine vs Moonshine."

The Senior Law Class of '20 has four representatives on the all-senior Ball Committee. They are Clifford

O'Sullivan, chairman; Delbert Smith, charge of the Senior Ball which is Clement Mulholland and Norman the biggest social event on the University calendar. This committee has full Barry.