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The Lawyer Presents

Notre Dame Law School Editors

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THE LAWYER PRESENTS —

The most striking change initiated by the first issue of Volume 43 has probably already been noticed. After a year's absence, the practice of listing an issue's contents on the front cover has been reinstated. It is believed that the addition of the contents to the cover serves to enhance the aesthetic attractiveness of the publication, as well as to immediately apprise the reader of the material contained in any one issue. The most significant aspect of the change, however, is the manner in which it was brought about. It was through the suggestion of our readers that we became aware that the disappearance of the contents was an unwelcome change. A law review, like any publication, strives to please its readers. During the coming year, our every effort will be directed toward this goal. Keenly aware of the confines of our academic “ivory tower,” however, we realize that success in this area is only possible if our readers communicate to us their desires and their needs. Thus, at the outset, we request that you help us serve you by forwarding any suggestions as to how the Lawyer might be improved.

In this issue, Mr. Robert G. Notman, a member of the Illinois Bar, reviews and evaluates the first ten years of experience with uninsured motorist endorsements. Using the endorsement found in the standard insurance policy as his point of reference, Mr. Notman discusses the cases that have interpreted and given meaning to the notoriously vague language found in all insurance contracts. Also in this issue, Mr. George J. Alexander, of the Syracuse University Law School, and Mr. Thomas S. Szasz, Professor of Psychiatry at the State University of New York, discuss the appropriateness of allowing the use of mental illness as a defense in tort actions. The article provides informative insights into the relationship between such a defense and the underlying policy of tort law, and concludes with a suggestion that the disallowance of such a defense may well be a blessing in disguise to those to whom it is denied.

The Lawyer is proud to feature a student article of unusual quality and value. In an extensive Note on the dangers of excessive radiation in the healing arts, Mr. James Seckinger, who holds a B.S. degree in physics and was an A.E.C. Health Physics Fellow in 1964-65, thoroughly analyzes the total failure of the medical and dental professions to protect the public from unnecessary radiation. Mr. Seckinger notes the incapability of the judicial process to remedy this problem and, in conjunction with the law school's Student Legislative Bureau, has drafted a Model Statute that provides the public with the protection it urgently needs.
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