

can only be characterized as disastrous. There must surely be something wrong when a student, having received a certificate of fitness to practice as a solicitor, is, speaking generally, compelled to acknowledge that he is so ignorant of the simplest practical details of a solicitor's business as to be useless either to any client that he may have, or to any practitioner who may venture to employ him in his office. As an illustration of this, we may refer to some cases which have come under our personal observation: A graduate of a university, a barrister and solicitor of some months' standing, was engaged at a small salary in a Toronto office. Having been given a paper to serve, with instructions to get an admission of service, he asked the office boy what an admission of service meant, and what form he should use. Another barrister and solicitor, also a university graduate, recently applied to the writer for a position in his office so that he might learn something of the duties which the Law Society had solemnly declared he was already fitted to perform. He asked no salary, as he said he could be of no assistance, explaining that all he had acquired at the Law School was a little theoretical knowledge which he could have learned better by studying at home, and that as to practice, he knew nothing whatever about it, having had no teaching or experience, being unable to get any whilst under articles. In fact, it is recognized—at least, by city practitioners—that law students under the present system are, for some reason or another, ornamental rather than useful in an office. Many reasons will occur to our readers why this must be so. The whole situation is summed up in the remark of another practitioner doing a large business, who said that, as matters stand at present, he would not be bothered with a student attending the Law School, and that he had frequently refused to take them into his office, being an encumbrance rather than otherwise. We cannot think that the students are alone at fault in all this. They are much the same to-day as they were twenty years ago.

It is well that these difficulties and deficiencies should be recognized and faced, and if possible obviated, and it is with this in view that we have called attention to the matter. We have already received various communications on the subject. In one of these the complaint is made that the present members of the profession are required to provide funds for educating men to enter already overcrowded ranks, and the writer thinks that those who