

has gone through the identical processes of reasoning by which accurate text-writers reach their conclusions.

Prof. Langdell encountered serious opposition among his colleagues and students, and still more from the profession. His attitude toward the time-honoured treatises was considered almost sacrilegious. Happily he was not discouraged by opposition, and the correctness of his ideas has been vindicated by their complete success. There are very few important law schools in the United States to-day which do not use his methods in part, and many of them adopt them outright.

One vice of the lecture system lies in the opportunity it affords the student to cram his notes and synopses of text-books, and in the encouragement, if not compulsion, to do vast amounts of memorizing. The professor who employs the case-system will mention the names of any text-books which are particularly accurate, for use as a reference, but the student will use them but little. He is thrown "in medias res" and asked at once what the first case decides and whether it is rightly or wrongly decided, with the reasons for his opinion. He proceeds in the discussion of the cases, from one principle to another, during which process he successively takes with his own mind the various steps whereby the law was developed. Instead of memorizing, he reasons. In this regard, the system is psychologically correct, for it has been demonstrated that once the mind has performed a logical sequence of reasoning, it will naturally follow the same course when the point arises again.

What was the effect of this change of method on the condition of the Law School at Harvard? From a school, in 1870, with three professors delivering ten lectures a week to one hundred and fifteen students, it has grown so that now there is a faculty of ten professors (who devote their entire time to their teaching), and several lecturers, giving more than fifty lectures a week to over seven hundred and fifty students. The entering classes are all college graduates. The financial condition has improved in forty years, so that a deficit was converted into a surplus of \$500,000, from which the school has provided a