

benefits so obtained? But why not hold out some further inducement to the graduate in arts? The ordinary curriculum in medicine demands four years, but a graduate in arts completes it in three. There are surely no unconquerable obstacles in the way of making a programme of lectures and studies in law to occupy the attention of the rank and file four years, but which graduates can, if so inclined, dispose of in three. No more time will then be needed by the graduate to prepare for his profession than at present, he will do no more work than he does now, when, as is not unfrequently the case, he combines with his strictly professional studies the work prescribed by the University for the degree of LL.B. He will have the by no means inconsiderable gain of complete and exhaustive courses of lectures on both, instead of, as now, reading by himself. The number of those who, by the help afforded by the lectures of skilled instructors devoted to the work of legal education, and by the degree to be obtained, as well as by the knowledge and discipline gained by the projected course, would be led to enter on the broader field of investigation so opened up, instead of groping blindly along the labyrinths of legal lore for five years, would be but a partial test of its success. To benefit them would, however, be a part of its aim, and there seems no good reason for despairing of the realization of the hopes of even its most ardent promoters.

The details of the proposal, as formulated by the Joint Committee of the Provincial University and the Law Society, may require extensive modification; almost any scheme devised by human ingenuity will need improvements in the light of experience in working it. But we think that in the co-operation of the University and the Law Society is to be found the true solution of the problem of legal education.

In the meantime, until some such institution can be founded, the greatest service that the Law Society could render to legal education would be to abolish its primary examination, always a slipshod and superficial one, and exact in lieu of it, evidence that the candidate for admission had passed the first year examination of one of our Universities. This would be the most substantial advance made in general culture in the profession for many years. Incompetent and half-trained students would become fewer, and the way would be paved for some satisfactory system of purely legal instruction. The change suggested is not more radical than many of those made in recent years in departmental and university examinations, and its tendency would be to greatly increase the proportion of students-at-law taking a full arts course. Having completed the first year of the university curriculum, and having some experience of university life, many of them would go on to graduation. The time is fast coming when no young professional man need hope to occupy a respectable rank among his brethren, if his literary training has not reached at least this level.

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