

Correspondence

THE LAW SCHOOL OF ONTARIO.

To the Editor, CANADA LAW JOURNAL:

Sir,—There is a passage in Mr. McWhinney's address as President of The Ontario Bar Association, bearing on the Law School, which naturally excites interest in one who is upon its staff, and perhaps you will allow me sufficient space to refer to it. In so far as the passage deals with the standing or fitness of the lecturers it would be improper for me to comment upon it and that aspect of the subject will not be dealt with.

Neither is there any desire to deprecate criticism of the Law School. It is much better to be discussed critically than ignored, and a disheartening feature of one's work as a lecturer is the indifference to the welfare of the School which is prevalent amongst members of the Bar. Everyone grows interested in his work even though only a "lecturer-practitioner," and it is a decided damper upon a lecturer's enthusiasm to find that discussion with a brother lawyer about the School either becomes a monologue because only the lecturer knows what he is discussing or it languishes because the others are not interested. Anything, therefore, which stimulates interest in the School is desirable, and in this aspect Mr. McWhinney's public reference to it is most welcome. A more lively interest in the School by those who are no longer students would go far to improve its standing, a thing which, as Mr. McWhinney suggests, is always desirable. As a matter of fact, the Law School has now, and has had for years a good name, and students frequently come from other Provinces to attend its lectures. It is probably correct to say that it is the leading Law School in Canada; but how many lawyers know this or take the slightest trouble to enquire whether the statement is, or is not, justified? If all lawyers were interested in its work and position and took the trouble to ascertain what was actually being done, their active interest and sympathy would, in themselves, be beneficial, but this has during the last few years been singularly lacking. It would probably surprise people to know how seldom lecturers are asked about their work. Once the late Mr. Lancaster asked if he might attend a lecture given to a class which his son attended but this is the only time, in my own experience, when a member