

present upon such changes as would necessitate a prolongation of the term of students' clerkships to four and five years, as they were before the Act of 1894.

Your committee conceive that the opinion which influenced the Legislature of 1894 in abbreviating the terms ought to be respected for at least a reasonable length of time, in order that the legislation may have a fair trial, particularly as there is much force in the arguments in support of it.

In the consideration of all the questions your committee believe that the Bar ought to retain within the limits of its own corporate powers the absolute right of admission of members to the profession, and that no infringement should be permitted upon that principle. At the same time the mere duty of examining candidates to obtain a knowledge of their qualifications so far as educational attainments are concerned, is a mere matter of obtaining evidence; and there may be other means of obtaining that evidence quite as satisfactory as the present system affords.

To make the evidence satisfactory, the examinations in whatever form, or by whomsoever conducted, should be as thorough as is reasonably possible, while at the same time made equitable to the candidate.

It must be admitted that the present system has worked fairly well, though it may not have proved in all respects perfect.

A great many suggestions have been made to members of your committee, who feel bound to report these suggestions in order that they may be considered by the council even though your committee do not see fit to approve of them.

The law students themselves have made suggestions, some of which have commended themselves to the approval of some of the members of the committee. It will be well perhaps to deal with these first. They are as follows:

1. That examinations start at the time fixed.
2. That there be an option given upon the number of questions, or a lesser percentage required, or a greater number of questions given, and especially in the major subjects.
3. That the student be allowed to have his paper back if he wishes, and be entitled to know in what subjects he is plucked.
4. That all papers on certain subjects only be examined by special committees, to the end of bringing about a uniform system of correcting papers; and that the present system of submitting papers to the sub-committees be abolished.

The first of these suggestions arises from a complaint that the examinations of candidates do not begin at ten o'clock on the first day.

The examiners explain that this is unavoidable, as the by-laws require that the questions to be submitted to candidates shall not be prepared until that day, and the forenoon consequently of the first day is inevitably consumed in the preparation of the questions.

If there is any inconvenience or expense caused to candidates by the by-law respecting this matter, it might be obviated by some change in the procedure, or in the notices to candidates.

The second suggestion would be a means, no doubt, of making the examinations more favorable to the candidates and perhaps fairer; but it will be observed that if a greater number of questions are propounded, the effect would be to prolong the sitting of the Board, both in the preparation of the questions, and in the examination of the answers, thereby increasing the expenses both to students and to the corporation.

3. "That the student be allowed to have his paper back if he wishes, and be entitled to know in what subjects he is plucked."

While some of the members of the committee approve this suggestion, others consider there are grave objections, particularly to the first part