

or for less than its value. It is the privilege of every professional man to help those who would otherwise be without legal assistance; but he ought to know what his charities are costing him and ought to see to it that his generosity is not visited upon some other client whose means may enable him to pay for the work done not for him only but also for someone else. Similarly just as the man who sells goods below cost is an object of suspicion and a menace to his confrères in the business, so a man who habitually undercharges is a danger to the profession for as he must live, his livelihood is necessarily derived from some other and possibly some questionable source or else he is bringing the standard of living down to a point which will necessarily drive better men into some more remunerative employment where they can live and do business according to higher notions of propriety than the rewards in law will permit. One of the first reforms suggested, therefore, is some system of charges that will enable lawyers to ascertain and to charge according to the original cost of the work done. It is scarcely necessary to point out that our tariff absolutely ignores this. The only disbursements provided for are such as are paid out of pocket, and many things that are nothing but disbursements, such as the copying of documents, can only be charged for according to arbitrary fees. Now the copying of documents is a disbursement pure and simple, involving generally the purchase of a typewriter, the use of so much paper, the payment of so much wages and the interest upon capital invested in office fixtures and required in the work; and the first essential would be to find out what, under modern conditions, is the cost of such work and what is a fair profit to the solicitor for his share in the production of the document. Much of the work done in an office has similarly its own initial cost, but probably such a thing is never considered in making charges and it is certainly never contemplated in our tariff.

The tariff itself is not only extremely antiquated but is very partial. It makes no provision for work done in the criminal courts, for the vast amount of work done in connection with