

smiling approbation of duty. It is the absence of aim and of a true conception of duty which is causing so many failures in our professions, and which results in the lack of professional honor and etiquette now becoming so apparent.

It is a scientific impossibility, to put it negatively, for any one to take a course of study and not be influenced by it in some degree. Is it unreasonable, then, to hope that a course in Ethics should have a wide and far-reaching influence on its students, and through them on their professions?

There are other questions, however, much harder to decide than whether we shall do right or wrong. Questions arise as to what is right, and probably the members of the legal profession have more of these disputed questions to settle with themselves than have the members of any other profession. Am I justified in taking this case, and if so, how far should I go in my efforts to win it for my client? Should I do all that he would for himself? Many such questions confront a lawyer a hundred times a day, and it is necessary, to solve them satisfactorily, that he should bring to bear on them the search-light of an intellect quick to see the question in all its bearings, and a will prompt to act in accordance with the right.

Then again there are questions of the metaphysico-ethical type, the answers to which must have a great influence on a lawyer's conduct. The question as to whether or not the will is free, which is often ridiculed as immaterial to any one, is of extreme importance to the lawyer. Before a single law was passed, it had to be assumed, whether rightly or wrongly, that the will is free. If, as some contend, the will is absolutely determined, an end is made of all law. The question of the freedom of the will lies at the very basis of law and punishment. Truly we would be worse than brutes did we hang a man for what he did as a part of nature.

Another very notable instance of the direct utility of Ethics in law is Jurisprudence. Jurisprudence is really a branch of Ethics. At any rate it has to go for its principles and fundamental data to Ethics, that despised study of the recluse student of Philosophy. All our civil law is based on our conceptions of a