

SOME IMPRESSIONS OF HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

(Continued from our last issue)

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I attended Harvard as a special student in the Graduate School. There is no distinct curriculum for graduates; they may take any elective subject upon consultation with the Chairman of the Committee on Graduate Studies. I took examinations in four courses, the equivalent of four courses being the requirement for the normal academic year. I also took advantage of the opportunity to audit portions of a number of other courses. The whole experience was stimulating and informative, to say the least. Whether something even better would be achieved if a special course were available for graduates, I do not know. I believe that certain other large law schools in the United States do not make a far greater attempt to attract graduate students, and in particular foreigners. At Harvard there are members of the Faculty who do not seem convinced of the desirability of having more than a handful of foreign students, though I think that it is realized that if the School is to hold a reputation as one of the world's great schools, there must be some interchange of students. In the classes which I attended last year there was a scattering of students from China, Egypt, France, Great Britain, Iceland, Norway, the Philippines, and Switzerland. Not all of them were satisfied with the regular third-year Harvard courses. There was a feeling that certain courses other than Public International Law also might be adapted to give at least some recognition to the fact that foreign students were in attendance. Possibly the Committee on Legal Education which for more than a year has been making a survey of the Harvard curriculum and instruction will see fit to deal with the problem.

It must not be thought that the life of a Harvard law student admits of nothing but work. The University is within such a short distance of Boston, of course, that the numerous plays, musical and sports events of the big city are accessible to the students. In addition, the Law School men were to be found in attendance at the College's major sports activities, which sometimes became the occasion for a dance as well. The main event of the year 1946-47, was, I suppose, the Harvard-Yale football game. For that day, Boston returned to what one newspaper termed "the merry parties and the lavish spending of the middle twenties." Bids for tickets were reported to have reached \$100 a pair. On the day of the game a section of Cambridge extending for several city blocks was roped off, while thousands of people surged through the streets to fill to overflowing the Harvard Stadium (capacity 57,000). What impressed me most, however, were the excellent 129-piece Harvard band, and the elaborate ceremonies which it and the Yale band carried on between halves. The ceremonial feature at this and other games that I witnessed seemed, indeed, to relegate the game itself to a place of only incidental importance.

Among the other extra-curricular activities, one which deserves mention is the Harvard Law School Forum. This organization met about every two weeks, and brought to the School many outstanding speakers from across the nation. Usually there were two guest speakers, with a member of the Faculty acting as moderator. The topics related for the most part to the law, government, politics and philosophy; among these were, for example: "What Should America's Policy Toward Russia Be?"; "Bureaucracy and the Legal Order"; "Values for Modern

Man"; "The Causes of Industrial Strikes"; and "An Analysis of World Government." The speakers included such well-known figures as former Supreme Court Justice Owen J. Roberts; Senator Claude Pepper; Clinton S. Golden, noted labour counsellor; James M. Landis, former dean of Harvard Law School, and John Fischer of Harper's Magazine. Many of the meetings drew capacity audiences, and none seemed to fail to awaken an interest which would carry over into the campus discussions of the following day.

A somewhat different type of meeting, which also was exceptionally well attended, was the Sunday morning service at the Memorial Church in Harvard Yard. There, in addition to the extremely able Dean Willard L. Sperry of the Harvard Divinity School, one heard such noted preachers as Professor Reinhold Niebuhr, Dean Luther Weigle of Yale, Rabbi Silver, the Rev. Joseph Sizoo of New York, and many others. The music, which was provided by the Harvard Glee Club, was especially fine.

Thus far no more than passing reference has been made to the School's Faculty. It has been in the public eye for so long that there is little one can add to what already has been written about it. One thinks immediately in terms of legal works—Williston in Contracts, Beale in Conflicts, Scott in Trusts, Chafee in Equity, Frankfurter in Public Law, and Hudson in International Law. One recalls also the school's great Deans—Langdell, Ames, Thayer and Pound.

It was my great privilege to attend quite a number of Pound's lectures in Jurisprudence, and to be present at his final lecture to his "last class." Retiring last May, after thirty-seven years of service, and in his seventy-sixth year, he was, when I last heard, planning to go to China to assist in the reform of that country's legal system. His memory and obvious wealth of knowledge are something almost unbelievable—approaching the supernatural. Coupled with his simplicity of expression, they make him surely one of the most remarkable persons of the age.

This School, which for so many years has boasted some of the greatest names in the law, will have to watch closely if its future is to equal the glories of the past. The students themselves were wont to reflect on the fact that many of the Faculty members who have been considered outstanding in their fields are of a generation now growing old. The post-war period has provided a wonderful opportunity to test the abilities of an unusually large number of younger men. If some at least of these measure up in the way that one of the pre-war recruits has—Professor Freund, in whose course in Conflicts I was enrolled—the School will have no cause to worry.

One last impression may be worth mentioning; it is one of which I did not become so acutely aware until I again came in contact with Canadian students. The Harvard method of instruction does bring the student to the appreciation that the study of law should be more than a quest for information. There is a technique of treating with cases which when once it is mastered, will assist in solving many of the student's problems. In the mastery of that technique, the student is encouraged to think, and that, it perhaps will be conceded, is all to the good.