

Editorial

This publication is the first attempt by the Law Students' Society of the University of New Brunswick to produce a Legal Periodical. The long-felt need of a means of expressing the thoughts and actions of the legal profession and law students in the Province has manifested itself in "OYEZ OYEZ." The Law Students' Society approved of the idea of this publication when they set up a Publication Committee in October of this year.

One of the first problems which confronted the Managing Board was: "What form should the publication take?" There were two opposing ideas. One was that the journal should contain articles written by *outsiders* only. The other was that the journal should contain articles written only by and about the students, themselves. Between the conflict of the ideas of publishing only what was written by the *most learned* and of publishing what was written by the students, a settlement was finally reached. "OYEZ OYEZ" is the end result of this settlement. There are two sections in the journal, one containing articles contributed from outside sources and the other known as the "students' section" containing articles written by the students as well as articles about student affairs.

I can do no better than to quote the following from a letter received from Mr. G. V. V. Nicholls, Editor of the "Canadian Bar Review":

"It is often said with truth that the tools of a lawyer are words: the spoken word and the written word. With the former, legal periodicals have little directly to do; but with the latter they have everything to do. It is one of the functions of a legal periodical, and particularly of a student publication, to assist the lawyer to use the written word effectively. This can be done in a variety of ways: By giving as many as possible an opportunity to practice writing, by offering example of the finest legal writing and so on. There is nothing "academic" about being able to write well; nothing for which a lawyer need be apologetic. What could be more practical than for a lawyer to learn to use the tools of his profession accurately, gracefully and persuasively.

Men sometimes forget there is no royal road to effective writing; we cannot write what is not within us, if we have nothing to say we can say nothing, and we cannot say even what we have to say unless we understand the technique of writing. So good writing implies:— firstly, knowledge and, perhaps even more important, humanity and character; and, secondly, technical skill. In both respects your Journal has an essential role to play.

In history the lawyer has always met with criticism from the layman; perhaps he is being criticized now more than ever before. Some of this is no doubt the result of a misunderstanding of the lawyer's function; some of it, unfortunately, is justified. But whatever the lawyer's popular name may be, no profession has done more for humanity in the past than the legal profession, and no profession has a greater opportunity in the present. There is no nobler manifestation of the human mind and character than the great lawyer. And it is a hopeful sign that all over Canada the lawyer is awaking to his opportunity and responsibility. His still vague and undefined aspirations must be given direction by the legal periodicals of this country."