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## Editorials

Kentucky Law Journal

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## EDITORIALS

In this the opening number of the Kentucky Law Journal for the year 1922-23, it seems altogether fitting that there should be a statement of the aims and policies to be pursued by the staff for the coming year. A complete reorganization of the Journal is planned in order to meet the advancing standards and growing needs of the College of Law and of the State Bar. The Journal shall endeavor to establish more cordial and mutually helpful relations between the law school and the members of the bar. The staff has already been assured the complete co-operation and hearty support of the faculty and student body of the College of Law and it is looking forward to a greater co-operation and support on the part of the members of the bar.

The ideal of the Journal is that it shall be of threefold service, to the student of law, to the teacher of law and to the practitioner; and that in all these it shall be enabled the better to serve our state and country. The Journal invites the use of

its columns for the free discussion of any subject of legal interest and trusts that it will be the official publication of the Kentucky State Bar Association in fact as well as in name.

The staff has for its aim the placing of the Kentucky Law Journal upon a par with like publications of the leading law schools of the country.

### THE LAW COLLEGE

This year portends to be most successful for the law college. The first and most obviously present forward step is a twenty-four per cent increase in the student body. Last year the enrollment for the first semester was sixty-five; seventy-eight men and eight young women are in the college this year.

The most important step taken during the past year has been to raise the standard of admission beyond high school requirements by affording all candidates for the LL. B. an opportunity to acquire as prerequisite to their legal training, those essentials of the regular college course that are necessary for a thorough and broad-minded understanding of the law. In order to achieve this prerequisite training, one year of college work is now required for entrance to the law college.

Twelve college graduates are entered in the course of study in the law college. Among the various colleges represented by graduates may be mentioned: Centre, Kentucky Wesleyan, Vanderbilt, Columbia, University of Mississippi, Berea, and Transylvania. Several students hold diplomas from our Kentucky Normal Schools.

Mr. H. J. Scarborough has joined the faculty of the law college this fall, as professor of law. Mr. Scarborough received his A. B. from Antioch College, Ohio. For some time after receiving his degree, he taught and was principal of various high schools. At one time he was Assistant Superintendent of Schools in Youngstown, Ohio. His LL. B. was received from the University of Michigan. He has spent the last four years in practice in Youngstown, Ohio.

Mr. Hamilton, a professor in the college of law for several years is now engaged in practice in Louisville.

The American Law Book Company has offered a set of books to the winner of its course in legal research. This company sends out a series of legal questions, which are given to

the contestants to look up in *Corpus Juris* or *Cyc.*; the holding on the legal point involved. The contest, which will extend over a period of eight months is under the supervision of Mr. Scarborough.

The law library occupies necessarily a most important part in the growth and development of the law college; it is our laboratory in which the vital work of the classroom is supplemented and developed. The student can not spend too much time among its well chosen volumes.

Our library is purely a technical one, containing only law volumes of the best compilers. Occupying a prominent place is, of course, the American Digest System (the Century, and First and Second Decennial Series and Key Number, Series A). We have *Cyc.* and *Corpus Juris*; A. L. R., and L. R. A. Ruling Case Law, American Decisions, American Reports, American State Reports, and a new set of U. S. Reports (Law Ed.) Federal Cases, followed in date by the Federal Reporter. The Reporter System and all the important state reports up to the Reporter System occupy a large part of our shelf space. We have a complete set of Codes and Statutes of recent date of our own State, a large collection of supplementary text books, and are in exchange with all of the leading law schools for their yearly publications. Our English Reports are a very complete and costly set and are used not only by our own law students and faculty but by many lawyers of the city of Lexington and the State at large.

R. M. M.

#### SCIENCE IN DETECTING CRIME.

Science has become a material aid in detecting crime. The first well organized system for apprehending the criminal was introduced by M. Bertillon, a Frenchman, in 1889. He conceived the idea of identification by bodily measurements. About twelve measurements of a criminal once in custody would be taken and recorded. These measurements included height, weight, width of head, length of head and the length of the bones in the arms and legs. For convenience in referring to the records the prisoners were classified into different groups. Those with long heads would be placed in one group, and those with short heads in another and so on. The color of the hair and eyes afforded further divisions and sub-classifications.

The Bertillon system worked admirably from the beginning and would be more popular today had it not been supplanted by a superior system. The first year this system was used by the Paris police 49 criminals were detected and the following year the number was increased to 241. The records show that the failure of identity was only 4 in 32,000.

Although M. Bertillon's system has had a remarkable record it has been completely abandoned in favor of the finger print method. This is by no means a new system, but until a comparatively recent date it was not reduced to an accurate, organized method. Among the earliest examples of finger prints is the imprint of a finger nail on an Assyrian clay tablet with the statement under it in cuneiform that this had been made by the seller of a field as his mark. Sir William Herschel finding forgeries in India very difficult to check would require the maker of a contract to record his finger impressions under his signature. This would keep the maker of the contract from subsequently denying his signature. Herschel's method proved very successful and by 1877 it was in popular use all over the British Empire.

The success of the system is due to its accuracy, simplicity and convenience. In the Bertillon system about a dozen measurements were required for identity, while only one finger print is necessary to an almost infallible identification. It is possible for a person's height, weight and the length of his bones to change, especially if the measurements were taken before he reached maturity, but the structure of the loops and ridges on his fingers will never change. The finger may grow longer or the marking become scarred, but the general lines of the skin will remain the same. By careful calculation it has been found that only about two fingers in every 64,000,000 are exactly alike. This individuality insures an accurate identification. For convenience and economy of time several classifications of the types of finger prints have been made. Some have divided the prints into arches, loops and whorls, but perhaps the most satisfactory division is that made by Vincetick, consisting of the internal loop, the external loop and the vertical.

The finger print method has been greatly aided by the development of photography which is used in taking new prints and enlarging for comparison those already in the hands of the

police. What the future scientific field holds for us along this line is only speculation, but we can see that there is a tendency toward an international system for combating crime. The means of rapid communication between nations make a more extensive identity system necessary.

### NEWS NOTES

The Law Library has been increased by the addition of 203 new books; the Missouri State Reports, Missouri Appeals and the Florida State Reports.

The following men received the degree of LL. B. last June: Paul Ashby, B. B. Baxter, Berl Boyd, James Farmer, George Gallup, Guy Ledwidge, T. P. Oliver, E. L. Ritchie, Samuel Royster, Brady M. Stewart, and Henry Sullivan. James Allen, Everett Baker, Frank Henderson and Broaddus E. Hickerson completed their work in the Law College during the summer session.

Dean Lafferty is the recipient of an etching of the Honorable Mr. Justice Blackstone sent to him by Wilbur R. Smith, Jr., of San Francisco. Mr. Smith was a member of the class of 1912. He is now treasurer of the Baucroft Whilney Co., the largest law book concern in the west.

A panel picture of the seven boys in the Law College who gave their lives in the World War has been hung in the law library. The pictures are of Robert E. Cullen, Chester B. Helm, Reuben Hutchcraft, Dexter W. Ramsey, Joseph C. Reynolds, Raymond Schoberth and Stanley H. Smith.

The American Law Book Company contest was won by Frank Henderson. The prize consisted of a complete set of Corpus Juris—Cyc. The contest was one of legal research in which the contestants were required to look up and report the answers to eight series of questions of twenty questions each. Corpus Juris—Cyc. was to be used in the first seven series and the American Digest system was to be used in the eighth series. Among the twelve or fifteen students who completed the contest, Philip T. Powell made second place and J. G. Bruce made third place. The contest was a very close one, the winner leading by only a fraction of a point.

The W. H. Anderson Law Publishing Company prize, given to the student who made the best general average in the first

year, was won by Philip T. Powell. This consisted of a set of Page on Contracts, in three volumes.

The students of the Law College recently secured the artist Allan Swisher, to paint a portrait of Dean W. T. Lafferty. The portrait will be a gift from the students to the College of Law.

The Kentucky Law Journal takes pleasure in calling the following notice to the attention of the members of the Kentucky Bar:

Last July, Congress passed an act (Public No. 272) providing for the publication of the official reports of the Supreme Court in the Government Printing Office and for their sale to the public at cost of production, including a part of the appropriation made for the maintenance of the Reporter's office. This did away with the method of publication through contracts between the reporter and private publishing houses, which had obtained from the beginning. The last contract of that kind expired with the publication of volume 256, which completed the reports for the October 1920 term. The letting of a new contract to cover the opinions of the 1921 term was impracticable, owing to the pendency of the legislation, to the expectation that it would be enacted long before it actually was, and to definite indications that, when enacted, it would supersede the contract method.

For various reasons, incident to the ending of the old contract and the legislative change, editorial work on the opinions of the 1921 term was seriously delayed. Time also was consumed by administrative preliminaries under the new law, and in making necessary preparations in the printing office. Notwithstanding this, however, gratifying progress has been made. The reports of these opinions will be contained in three volumes to be numbered 257, 258 and 259, all of which, it is confidently expected, will be published in bound and pamphlet form before the close of the year.

The act provides for advance parts as well as bound volumes, when ordered by the Chief Justice. It was decided to issue a small edition of these pamphlets, four to a volume, sufficient to meet the requirements of public officials and of those lawyers who may desire them notwithstanding the delay. These, as heretofore, are made from the plates used in the final volumes and, therefore, correspond with them in page number.

ing. It is believed that their publication will not delay the bound volumes, and it is known that the prompter dissemination of the opinions thus made possible will be of convenience to many, besides helping to detect errors in the plates. Two numbers, containing one-half of the opinions of volume 257, have been issued at this writing. The price is twenty-five cents per number. The bound volumes will follow the corresponding pamphlets as soon as the plates can be re-examined and corrected and the tables and indexes completed and plated. According to present estimates, the price of bound volumes will be about two dollars and ten cents each, possibly a little more, possibly a little less. It will be fixed in the near future when the work has progressed somewhat farther.

Especial attention is directed to the fact that it will not be necessary to send in a separate order for each pamphlet or volume purchased. Standing orders with advance deposits will be received by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., and the publications will be mailed, as issued, to the addresses given, as long as the amounts kept on deposit suffice to pay for them.