Editorials

Kentucky Law Journal

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In dedicating this the January number of the Kentucky Law Journal to the memory of our late friend and dean, Judge William T. Lafferty, the students of the College of Law are attempting in a small way to voice the feelings of respect and honor and admiration with which they were wont to regard him and to express in a small way the great loss which they felt upon his death.

It is said that the lives of great men live after them. Certainly all who have had the pleasure of knowing Judge Lafferty and who have had the privilege of sitting under him in the classroom will always feel the influence which his person-
arity and his great wisdom and sense of justice have had upon them.

But is his influence and the result of his labors to end here in the lives of those who personally knew him or will the work which he began be carried on to completion and be a thing of good for ever?

In the resume which Judge Lafferty wrote of the founding of the College of Law, he said that he was from the first determined that the University of Kentucky should have none but the best. He sacrificed his own interests in his endeavors to accomplish this. Practically the whole of his summers, time which should have been given to recuperating his frail strength, was given over to visiting other law schools, to searching out the best and most modern methods for conducting a law school. All these ideas he brought back and incorporated into his plans for the College of Law of the University of Kentucky, and limited as he has been in the means furnished him for the building up of the College of Law, his labors have been rewarded in a very great measure. The curriculum which he has arranged, the faculty which he has associated with himself, the library which he has collected, and the esprit de corps of the student body which he has fostered are evidences of this, and the equal of any in the south today.

It used to be considered in the olden days that a great teacher sitting upon a log with a few students squatting on the ground around him constituted a university. But that is not the case today. People have now come to realize that a great deal in the way of physical equipment is also necessary, and this is just as much true of the necessities of a college of law as it is of an engineering or an agricultural college.

The first two years of the College of Law were spent in two small rooms of the Educational Building; since that time it has occupied the third floor of the Science Building, left vacant by the College of Mining Engineering. The equipment in the first mentioned place consisted of the blackboards and benches found there; that of its present place is not better. There are three class rooms no one of them large enough to accommodate the number of students attending in them, and frequently chairs, such as they are, have to be carried from one to the other in order that there may be enough to seat all. The room contain-
ing the library is too small both in shelf space necessary to properly arrange the books and for files and also in space for study tables.

In the opinion of the writer, one of the greatest disappointments that came to Judge Lafferty during the fourteen years that he was Dean of the College of Law, came a year ago when the Legislature failed to appropriate sufficient funds for the use of the university so as to have made it possible for him to have carried out his final plans and to have moved the College of Law into more spacious and accommodating quarters.

What memorial would be more fitting and proper or would come nearest to fulfilling his wishes than that a building should be provided for the College of Law, called “Lafferty Hall,” and that the College of Law could be enabled to become truly an integral part of the University of Kentucky?