

THE STUDY OF LAW

The Law School Building

THE Law School building, which is at Thirty-fourth and Chestnut streets, is a brick and limestone structure designed in English Renaissance style of the time of William and Mary. It was dedicated in February 1900. The exterior is impressive, as is also the entrance hall with its vaulted ceiling and the broad marble staircase leading to the second floor.

On the first floor are faculty and administrative offices, with those of the Dean to the left of the entrance. A small suite on the west side houses the main office of the American Law Institute, an organization founded in 1923 under the leadership of the late Elihu Root for the purpose of restating the common law. A Code of Criminal Procedure, consisting of a series of model statutes intended to serve as a basis for the reform of adjective criminal law, has already been published by the Institute and has been adopted by a number of states.

The classrooms of the Law School are also on the first floor. They are adequate to care for a student body of nearly five hundred. Two of the rooms bear famous names. One of them is Wharton Hall, maintenance of which is provided for by a gift from the family of George M. Wharton. The other is Price Hall, named for the well-known Philadelphia lawyer and friend of the University, Eli Kirk Price. The arrangement of seats in Price Hall is similar to that of the House of Lords. The room is larger than is required for ordinary classroom purposes, but it is invaluable for meetings of greater portions of the student body than the ordinary class unit.

The second floor is devoted almost exclusively to the Biddle Law Library and its three principal reading rooms, McMurtrie, McKean, and Sharswood Halls. At the head of the staircase in the central part of the building is the stack room, which contains most of the 102,000 volumes of the Biddle Library. Behind the stack room and overlooking Thirty-fourth Street is McMurtrie Hall, named for Richard C. McMurtrie, a prominent Philadelphia lawyer whose portrait hangs in the room. Adjoining is the office of the Librarian.

On a mezzanine floor off McMurtrie Hall are two handsomely furnished rooms provided by Henry Reed Hatfield to house the growing collection of public and private international law.

In another room opening off McMurtrie Hall, the American Law Institute has deposited for safe preservation but not for loan its valuable set of drafts of each restatement, showing the successive stages through which these passed. Here, in other bookcases, available for circulation, is the Law School's own large collection of the published restatements with all state annotations, the published tentative and final drafts, and proceedings of the Institute, all of these echoing the great voices of the Law School—George W. Wickersham, George Wharton Pepper, Justice Owen J. Roberts, William Draper Lewis, Herbert F. Goodrich, Francis H. Bohlen, William E. Mikell, Edwin R. Keedy, and still others of the faculty who have contributed to the clarifying of the common law.

Another room is devoted exclusively to the briefs of the Supreme and Superior Courts of Pennsylvania, to which, it is hoped, will be added microfilm reproductions of the briefs of the United States Supreme Court. Beside the Brief room is the Periodical room, which contains American, English, English Colonial, and foreign legal periodicals, nearly two hundred in all.

McKean Hall, named for Thomas McKean, Trustee of the University and Chief Justice and Governor of Pennsylvania, and Sharswood Hall, named for Judge George Sharswood, famous jurist and former Dean of the School, are large reading rooms extending the width of the north and south ends, respectively, of the second floor. McKean Hall is used by first-year students, each of whom is assigned his own desk. Sharswood Hall is for general use. In 1938 Sharswood Hall was transformed into an open-shelf reading room with alcoves holding eight thousand volumes, which before the end of the student's first year have dispelled some of the mystery attaching to reports official and unofficial, citations, encyclopedias, digests, key numbers, compiled statutes, annotated cases, and periodical literature.

THE LAW SCHOOL

Instruction in the law has been given by the University of Pennsylvania in the old Academy buildings at Fourth and Arch Streets, in the "Presidential Mansion" and then College Hall on Ninth Street, in the present College Hall, in a downtown office building, and in Congress Hall on Independence Square. But more signifi-

cant than these changes of location, except as improved facilities have made possible improved teaching, are the changes in point of view which have come during the 150 years since lectures on law were first given in the University.

At present the Law School does most of its teaching through a faculty which gives its full time to the study and teaching of the law and to students who with but few exceptions give their full time to their studies. The beginning of legal education in Philadelphia was quite different. In 1790, long before the LL.B. and LL.M. now conferred were thought of, the famous James Wilson gave a series of law lectures in the College to a fashionable and educated audience, including George Washington and some of the members of his cabinet. A similar series was given in 1817 by Charles Willing Hare, a lawyer of distinguished ability. But such lectures were on public law and government and were designed for a thoughtful public, both lay and legal, and were not intended to provide instruction in the technique of professional practice.

When the Law Department of the University was reorganized in 1850, Judge George Sharswood, a distinguished Philadelphia lawyer, gave the first series of lectures. A law faculty was established in 1852, with Peter McCall and E. Spencer Miller, both highly successful practitioners, as Judge Sharswood's assistants. In this period, however, the teaching was done by gentlemen who had already made names for themselves upon the bench or at the bar, and the teaching continued to be incidental to their other work. Indeed, it was not until the latter part of the nineteenth century that the concept of law teaching as a separate branch of the legal profession became established. At Pennsylvania the change came with the appointment of Dr. William Draper Lewis as Dean of the School. His agreement with the University was that he should devote full time to the work of the School. The School still has on its faculty men engaged in active practice, and their contact with the law in action is valuable to both their colleagues and students, but the School depends on its full-time teachers for the bulk of its instruction and scholarly work.

During the earlier period the student's work in the School was likely to be subordinate to regular employment in the office of a practitioner, where he learned the routine of his profession. Today, when increasing government activities with their effects upon the life of the citizen point, perhaps, to a four-year instead of a three-year course, the student who will benefit most from his course has little time but for work in the classroom, the library, and in two

other important activities that are a part of the study of law at the University.

One of these activities is the extra-curricular study of the law carried on in the ten student law clubs, of which the majority of the students are members. Formed primarily for professional work, the clubs have quarters of their own on the ground floor of the Law School building, where they conduct a series of arguments on legal points for their first-year members, in which upper-classmen or graduates sit as judges. During the fall and winter the clubs compete in arguing legal questions before moot courts composed of judges of the Federal and State courts and practising attorneys. In recent years the final argument has been held in the Courtroom of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, with the Bench composed of justices of the Court.

The other activity is the exacting professional job of editing the School's legal periodical, the *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*. The *Review* is a successor to the *American Law Register*, and the two combined have the longest continuous history of any legal publication in the country. The management and editorial work of the *Review* is done by student editors, who are selected after competitive trials from the top fifth of the second- and third-year classes.

The faculty participate in the work of the *Review* as advisers and through contributed articles, which are, of course, but a small part of the annual list of the publications of the faculty. Some of these are contributions to various legal magazines; some are books for student use in this and other institutions; others are legal treatises for the general use of the profession. Many of the faculty have assisted in the work of the American Law Institute in restating the common law, and two were responsible for the Institute's Model Code of Criminal Procedure.

The Biddle Law Library

The tragic misfortune of one of the most distinguished of Philadelphia's legal families became the occasion for the founding of the Law School Library over half a century ago. Within the decade 1886 to 1897, George, Algernon Sydney, and Arthur Biddle, the three talented sons of George Washington Biddle, died, and their father's death followed a month after that of Arthur. In 1886, in memory first of George and later of all three sons, the Library was founded by this family by a gift of about five thousand volumes. Additional gifts followed from the Biddle family, including the endowment of the Algernon Sydney Biddle Professorship of Law. In



LAW SCHOOL

MEDICAL LABORATORIES ON HAMILTON WALK





CHEMISTRY LABORATORY: SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

X-RAY TREATMENT: VETERINARY HOSPITAL



recognition of these benefactions the Trustees of the University in 1893 agreed to allot in perpetuity one-twelfth of the gross receipts of the Law School to support the Library. No longer were students obliged to pay a \$3 fee to the Law Association of Philadelphia for the use of its library.

Among the precious possessions of the Library is an original of Statham, the first printed abridgment of the common law of the Year Books, supposed to have been published in 1488. This was translated and annotated in 1915 by Margaret Center Klingelsmith, whose long term of service as Librarian coincided with the transition of the Law School from the old type to the modern university educational and research center. Aided by her scholarly attainments, she built up the English, English Colonial, and American collections to a level equaled today by few libraries. When it came time to expand into the foreign field, collections were begun of the law of the Latin-American republics through the help of Dr. Leo S. Rowe (Class of 1897), now Director-General of the Pan-American Union. The Roman, Canonical, and modern European Continental field has since been greatly enriched. In 1928 large-scale special acquisitions were made possible by a bequest under the will of Ellis D. Williams. Among these additions should be mentioned the purchase of an exceptionally rich library of comparative criminal law and procedure. More recent purchases from this fund have been the original laws of New Jersey from 1780 to 1799 and a complete set of reprints of the rare session laws of Rhode Island from 1748 to 1800.