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EDITORIAL

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As will be seen, the number of editors has been reduced as compared with that of last year, from reasons of convenience in management and in the division of work.

* * *

A FEW words will suffice to bring to the notice of the graduating class the advantages available in the third year M. L. courses in the school. We refer not so much to the benefit to be derived from any particular study, as to the general result of such work. A complaint frequently made by Seniors is that their work is such in nature and amount that at the end of the year they are conscious of a distinct sensation of mental indigestion; that Senior

year, in its work of filling in with details the framework of principles laid down in the year preceding, causes the process of acquisition of raw materials by the mind to outrun that of their assimilation. It is in this relation that the chief good of the M.L. course lies. The mind is enabled by it to understand and grasp firmly the acquisitions of the undergraduate course, to see the relations of the different parts and to form this body of knowledge into an available whole. The use of third year courses is especially advisable for those of the graduating class who intend to settle in or near New Haven.

* * *

APROPOS of suggestions in general we wish to call the attention of the school to the fact that the advance sheets of the West Publishing Co.'s reporters are now available both in the School library and at the JOURNAL room. Aside from the obvious advantages of this system in furnishing law emphatically "up to date," we offer an extremely practical hint in remarking on the extensive lists of second-hand law books, reports, etc., advertised in these reporters. Considering the proverbial "financial stringency" which is the young lawyer's first instructor after leaving the law school, and how incompatible therewith are the prices of the ordinary and necessary law books at first hand, it is surprising how few there are who know of this means of economy.

* * *

PROPHECY is dangerous, but with this admission to beget due humility at the outset, it is excusable to yield to the temptation occasionally. We hazard the guess that the near future will see our much tested Federal and State Constitutions subjected to strain from a new direction. We refer to the recent spread of Socialistic ideas, due, it may be remarked, to fundamental causes, and beginning to show fruit in legislation of a novel general nature. While such legislation has primarily a political rather than a legal interest, the courts, guided by the constitutions, must apply the final test as to its right to exist, and the area thus opened for construction and interpretation will widen and become of tremendous importance. The episode of the late income tax may be said to present an early instance of this class of cases. Certainly the elements of such a struggle as has been suggested were contained in the arguments of that great case. Looking at that now seething concoction called Public Opinion, daily crystallizing into strange shapes, it is not rash to assert that the income tax case is but faintly typical of the contest soon to grow fierce, where it will be, beyond

all past experience, the spirit and essence of our organic laws, rather than the letter, that will be the battle ground of the forces.

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IN this, the last issue of the *LAW JOURNAL* for the present college year, the retiring board of editors wish to express their sincere thanks to all from whom they have received aid in their work; to the gentlemen of the Bench and Bar who have helped them by contribution and criticism; to the professors of the School who have been always ready to respond to requests for advice and assistance, and to their fellow students who have given their financial support. In aiding the *JOURNAL* these gentlemen have aided the School and from each of these points of view the board appreciates the value of their services.