

## THE LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

The Law Students' Society, composed of University law students, articled clerks and younger members of the legal profession, exists to enable members to cultivate the art of forensic speaking, and also to provide for social intercourse. The history of the Society is difficult to trace, the first two volumes of the minutes having been lost. There is some doubt as to whether it was founded in 1885 or 1887, the earlier date being relied upon in the Annual Report for 1925, and the later date by the President for that year, Mr. H. B. Gamble, at the first meeting over which he presided. The oldest document in the possession of the Society is a copy of the rules printed in 1905, when Colonel Harold Cohen was president.

At least two ex-members have been elevated to the bench, namely, Mr. Justice Dixon and Mr. Justice Starke, both of the High Court, and both of whom were for some time Secretaries of the Society. Others who have been members have come into prominence in the political world, notably the Rt. Hon. Sir John Latham, G.C.M.G., the Hon. R. S. Menzies, K.C., a former president, and more recently Mr. T. D. Oldham, M.L.A., who was secretary in 1920.

As far as possible at its meetings the Society observes the procedure of the Courts, and the president purports to exercise a jurisdiction that may, as occasion demands, be anything from that of the Supreme Court to that of the Privy Council. Once a year instead of wrestling with the intricacies of Contract, Tort and Property, a criminal trial is held, and succeeding secretaries vie with each other to make the "crime" as sensational as possible.

The following are the office-bearers for 1935:—

*President:* Mr. C. I. Menhennitt.

*Vice-Presidents:* Messrs. J. B. Harper and G. H. Lush.

*Joint Secretaries:* Messrs. F. M. Bradshaw and R. J. Davis.

*Treasurer:* Mr. H. P. Carter.

*Committee:* Messrs. H. G. Lander, A. C. Neil, A. T. Proudfoot, I. H. Smith, V. D. Wood.

*Hon. Auditor:* J. Shatin.

F. M. BRADSHAW, Secretary.