

EDITORIAL

RESIGNATION OF PROFESSOR K. H. BAILEY.

The Law Students' Society regrets the loss of such a gifted teacher and administrator, but wishes good fortune to the new Solicitor-General of the Commonwealth.

Professor Bailey served in the first World War and then went to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar. He returned to Melbourne as Vice-Master of Queen's College and in 1928 became Professor of Jurisprudence and Dean of the Faculty. In 1930, he went to the newly created Chair of Public Law and rapidly achieved recognition as an authority on Constitutional Law. During the years 1943-1946, he has served in the Attorney-General's Department.

He worthily carried on the tradition of Sir Harrison Moore and guided the Law School with wisdom. His resignation is a loss to the University which will be keenly felt.

"JURISPRUDENCE" BY PROFESSOR G. W. PATON.

The publication by the Oxford University Press of Professor Paton's *Jurisprudence* is an event of importance in the realm of Australian legal learning, and the Professor is to be congratulated on his scholarly achievement.

The book is reviewed elsewhere in this issue.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE LAW SCHOOL STAFF.

Mr. A. L. Turner, who served with the Royal Australian Navy from 1942 to 1945, has been appointed a Senior Lecturer in Law.

Mr. G. Sawyer has returned to full time duties with the Law School after service with the Department of Information. The position of Sub-Dean was created this year, and Mr. Sawyer has been appointed to the office.

RETURN OF EX-SERVICEMEN.

The increase in the number of law students has been largely due to the resumption by many ex-servicemen of their interrupted courses. Circumstances have changed since the days before they left for war service and most of them find some difficulty in settling down to study.

However, every assistance has been given the returned servicemen by the Law School. Exemptions have been granted to shorten the course and the prerequisite of Latin has been waived.

A Refresher Course of lectures covering a wide field and lasting from August 1945 to May 1946 was a success, there being 250 enrolments. A second series of lectures commenced in August, 1946.

Results of the ex-servicemen have been encouraging and it is hoped that further success will crown their efforts.

NUMBERS IN THE LAW SCHOOL.

The following figures show the influence of two wars on the numbers of students in the Law School. The present total of 447 is the highest ever reached.

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|------|----|-----|------|----|-----|------|----|-----|------|----|-----|
| 1900 | .. | 67 | 1921 | .. | 323 | 1930 | .. | 296 | 1939 | .. | 345 |
| 1913 | .. | 158 | 1922 | .. | 336 | 1931 | .. | 289 | 1940 | .. | 290 |
| 1914 | .. | 160 | 1923 | .. | 285 | 1932 | .. | 281 | 1941 | .. | 259 |
| 1915 | .. | 143 | 1924 | .. | 301 | 1933 | .. | 281 | 1942 | .. | 114 |
| 1916 | .. | 94 | 1925 | .. | 305 | 1934 | .. | 344 | 1943 | .. | 156 |
| 1917 | .. | 83 | 1926 | .. | 303 | 1935 | .. | 348 | 1944 | .. | 222 |
| 1918 | .. | 83 | 1927 | .. | 308 | 1936 | .. | 342 | 1945 | .. | 301 |
| 1919 | .. | 200 | 1928 | .. | 304 | 1937 | .. | 328 | 1946 | .. | 447 |
| 1920 | .. | 313 | 1929 | .. | 303 | 1938 | .. | 328 | | | |

NUMBERS OF STAFF.

Since the degree of Bachelor of Laws was first established in 1860, the number on the staff has never been sufficient for teaching needs. In 1873, Professor Hearn was made Dean and in 1889 he was succeeded by Professor Jenks. In 1892, Professor Sir Harrison Moore took office which he graced until his retirement in 1928. Until 1930 there was only one Chair of Law and no other full-time member of staff. In 1930 a new Chair was created, but it was 1940 before a full-time Senior Lecturer was appointed and 1946 before a second similar post was created.

The small number of the full-time staff has made it difficult to extend the scope of tutorial work and informal teaching; but this year for the first time tutorials are being given in almost every subject. In 1930 there were ten teachers (part time and full time); in 1946 there are 30 lecturers and tutors. This indicates that, although there is much yet to be done, the number of teachers has been greatly increased relative to the number of students. The only effective comparison, however, is between the number of full-time teachers and students.

REFORM OF THE CURRICULUM.

The greatest need is the provision of further tutorials given to small groups, but the main difficulty is the obvious one of finance. The Faculty is considering modifications of the curriculum so as to bring it closely into touch with the professional needs of to-day without sacrificing "background" subjects. The new legislation is now in force, but it will become effective only by stages. Those who by the 1st day of March 1947 have credit for subjects in the law course will complete the curriculum according to the subjects prescribed in 1946. Those beginning the law course in 1947 will follow the new curriculum. Proposals for modification of the Articled Clerks' Course have been approved in principle by the Council of Legal Education and will probably be brought into force in 1947. This new course will not affect clerks who obtain credit for subjects by the end of this year.

LAW BUILDING.

A great need is for an adequate home for the Law School which will provide for teaching rooms and a large Departmental Library. Both staff and students work under serious difficulties in present conditions. There is no hope, however, of a new building until materials become more freely available.

THE LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

The Society led an active and vigorous life during its first post-war year. As mentioned elsewhere, the number of students increased considerably, with the result that, on the whole, meetings were well attended.

The first debate was argued before Mr. Justice Fullagar and Professor Paton. The problem discussed raised some interesting points relating to the recovery of damages for nervous shock and was heard by an audience which packed the Classics Theatre. The excellent judgments were subsequently printed and made available to students.

During the course of the year, members of the Society were addressed by Mr. P. D. Phillips K.C. and Mr. R. J. McArthur, President of the Law Institute of Victoria. Mr. McArthur's address marked the first occasion on which the Society had been addressed by the President of the Law Institute.

Later in the year, the attention of members was mainly devoted to a discussion of the Society's Constitution, and it was even contended that the Society had no legal existence at all. A committee was appointed to investigate the position and to redraft the Constitution. Its report will be presented to the Society as early as possible in 1947.

Several social functions were successfully organised by the Committee.

On June the 21st and 22nd the Society presented a revue in the Melba Hall under the title "Lexapoppin." The revue was wholly produced and written by law students and was played to capacity houses on both nights. Everyone enjoyed its vigorous, if none too delicate, satire on legal history.

The Society's "At Home" was held for the first time for several years. The venue chosen was the "Coconut Grove" and the function was voted a great success by all those who attended.

A charge of bigamy was the subject matter of the annual Criminal Trial. The case was tried by the President and proceeded with the customary frivolity.

Office Bearers for 1946 were :—

President : J. Lurye, LL.B.

Vice-Presidents : T. W. Martin, LL.B. ; D. S. Murray.

Treasurer : C. Francis.

Committee : W. Macgennis ; W. Kearney ; G. Fuller ; K. Wilkes ;

P. McGay ; Misses V. Wraith and B. Briggs.

Secretaries : A. B. Super ; I. Macinolty.