

TO: The Faculty
FROM: Theodore H. Husted, Jr.
RE: The 1900 Law Building

In the Law School Record Book for 1899-1900, there is a description of the building at 34th and Chestnut Streets into which the school was about to move. It reflects the pride which our predecessors felt in their new facilities. Sixty-five years later as we move toward the renovation of that structure, this description holds particular interest for us.

On February 21st and 22nd all the legal world will meet to look upon the most completely beautiful and beautifully complete building ever designed for the sole purpose of housing a school of law. They will find no new, raw-looking structure, trying awkwardly to feel at home in unaccustomed surroundings, but a building which stands in its place like an heir just come to its own, born to his place and in the place to which he was born. Red brick and Indiana limestone make up the exterior of many buildings, but here they mingle in a friendly fashion unknown to us before. We are told that the architecture is English classic of the time of William and Mary and we fancy we see in the red bricks the warm red English blood of Mary and in the cool grey stone, the harder, colder character of William, here wedded once more in the interests of law and liberty. All about the building circle shields and medallions and upon these are carved the names the Department has chosen for especial honor. Here are the great beginners of Law as we know it, Caius Ulpian, Papinian, makers of the greatest code ever formulated by man, if the least human. Here is the name of the man who had all this knowledge codified and made useful to the men of his time and all times to our own, Justinian, and those men who rediscovevered and re-interrupted it all, Vattel, Domat, and Von Savigny, Edward I, the cofifier of English laws, and Bracton, his helper; Coke, the first of the great lawyers, the quaint, the patriotic, the author of the petition of right. Then a long line of learned Englishmen, some of whom loved us and some loved us not, but whom we honor in all impartiality; and our own great ones of the past, Madison, Hamilton, Webster. The great Pennsylvanians, Gibson, Binney, Tilghman, and the names of our own time, Field and Bradley. Circled so by greatness, the student of the days to come will be untrue to all that his eyes behold if he makes no effort to emulate their example.

The interior of the building has been most carefully planned to meet all the needs of the student body. The experience of the past and the inventive genius of the present have been taxed to supply every convenience and aid the physical and mental well being of all

who will use the structure. A great hall 27 feet wide by 120 feet long forms the central feature of the building. From the hall the wide marble staircase leads to the library floor above. This staircase is finely tinted and is of great dignity and beauty. A large window faces the first landing and the hall below, while the stairs branch to left and right in stately fashion. Upon the first floor and the basement below are found the executive offices of the department. The offices of the Dean and Secretary are fitted up with all the modern appliances for executive work, desks, cabinets, cases for filing the records of each student who matriculates and who thus leaves a succinct record of his career, short or long, successful or unsuccessful, behind him, which can be referred to at any time when needed; telephones and bells to all parts of the building, typewriters, letter presses, everything a busy man can need to save the time that is all too short for the work to be done. Upon this floor the decorations are simple in character, the only touch of luxury being in the marbles and door ways and the elaborate stucco-wrought ceilings. The lecture rooms are upon this floor, the smallest of the seven being able to seat fifty students, the largest 250. These rooms are all furnished with an ingenious arrangement in the form of "mushroom" desks, which are composed of a slender upright, with small square top attached, the top being just large enough to hold one book and the note book of the student. One of these stands is placed in front of each chair and they have been designed in order to do away with the awkward desk arm-chair or the room-consuming desk. It is believed they will prove to be of very great practical utility. The practice room and the prothonotary's office are also directly in the line of modern progress. It is believed that a practical experience of the formal process of the law is of much greater benefit to the student than much theoretical instruction. Therefore these rooms have been thoroughly equipped with all the necessary implements of a practice court and prothonotary's office. Here all the processes of the law will be gone through as in actual practice from the filing of the papers to the appearance in court and trial of the cause. These will be added to the principles and theory of the law that knowledge of its technicalities, without which the graduate student feels himself helpless when he faces the difficulties of his first case. On this floor also, adjoining the Practice Court, is a large debating hall, where those studying law who desire to perfect themselves in oratory will have every opportunity afforded them to practice that art. The Law Department has always furnished the greater number of the prize debaters of the University and it is hoped that with the facilities now afforded them they will bring inter-collegiate debating to so high a level that crowds will flock to the contests as eagerly as they congregate about the football fields. Just beside the entrance door a completely furnished coat room ministers to the needs of the incoming student. A wide flight of stairs leads us to a light and airy basement, with entrance from Sanson Street. Here are the Club rooms where the moot courts are held and the club men puzzle their brains with delicate points and the baffling mysteries of case law, or, on rare occasions indulge in conversation and other mild frivolities. The Quiz rooms are here also, where the doubtful points are settled,

not always to the satisfaction of either opposing faction, and the student is led firmly along the paths marked out in the lecture room. The bicycle room provides housing for the patient steed which, nevertheless, refuses to stand without support and will go merrily along with the first come-if not carefully guarded. Vast caverns supported by numberless pillars lead off from this point to caverns which appear like those of Kubla Khanae, "measureless to man." A room upon this floor has been made sacred to the comfort of the women students of the Department which has generously opened its doors to all of sufficient capacity, regardless of sex. Two women are now taking advantage of this generous spirit, both in their freshman years. There is no provision made for heating and lighting plants, these needs being supplied from the great central plant of the University. For the ventilation of the building there is a fan of special design 10 feet in diameter driven by an electric motor and capable of delivering into the building nearly one thousand cubic feet of fresh air per second. This air is drawn, first through an air filter of about 400 square feet of cheese cloth and then through a "temporary coil" of sufficient capacity to warm it to 60 degrees in zero weather; it then reaches the fan and is driven by it through a series of air passages and duct into the various rooms in quantities proportioned to the maximum number of occupants for which each particular room is designed. Supplementary heaters are placed between the fan and the rooms in such a way that each separate room is supplied with air at a temperature to suit its individual needs.

The temperature of the air supply is automatically controlled by a system of pneumatic thermostats and air piping installed by the Powers Regulator Company and arranged so that a fall or rise of one degree in the temperature of any room will be sufficient to automatically raise or lower the temperature of its air supply without affecting the quantity of air delivered through the register. The air delivered by the fan is intended principally for ventilation and direct radiators are therefore placed in many of the rooms for warming, the valves on those radiators being also controlled by thermostats.

Six large vent shafts, four of which are noticeable features in the architectural design, are provided for the discharge of vitiated air and the various rooms are connected to these either directly or by means of galvanized iron ducts. A special compressed air plant is provided for the operation of certain dampers in connection with the ventilating system. For instance, in the large vent shafts there are dampers which, as a matter of economy, should be closed when the building is unoccupied in order to conserve the heat of the building. These can be opened or closed by the manipulation of a single switch in the engine room.

The steam supply for the lighting and the heating and ventilating plants is taken from the Power House at the corner of 34th and Spruce Streets, about one thousand feet away and is carried in a six inch pipe covered with two inches of cork and enclosed in a water-tight brick conduit. The exhaust steam from the lighting plant is used in

the heating system and all water of condensation is metered and pumped back to the Power House through a two inch pipe contained in the same conduit as the steam pipe.

The building is lighted throughout by electricity from three dynamos and engines; one 400 lamp and two 130 lamp Westinghouse Dynamos and Engines direct coupled. These machines are so arranged that either one can be used separately or any number of them can be used together. The main switchboard in the engine room is 12 feet long by 8 feet high and made of white marble with all instruments, such as Ampere meters, volt-meters, ground detectors, Watt meters, and circuit switches. The circuits leading out to the different parts of the building are so arranged that any part of the building can be controlled by the engineer. The building is wired for 1250 16-candle power electric lights, in the very best and most improved method. The building was piped throughout, before it was plastered, with loricated iron pipe to all lights and switches. This piping is put together with threaded ends and leaded and the same care taken to make the same perfectly water-tight as though it was to carry water or gas. Two pipes are run throughout,--that is, the positive and negative poles are not allowed to run in the same pipe, thus avoiding any possible danger, this being different from any other building in the State, it being the custom to allow both poles to run to the same pipe. Then after the building was completed the wire was pulled into the pipe, all the currents and fuses for the system enclosed in steel boxes, perfectly fire proof, and all switches are of the flush push button pattern. The desks in the students' reading rooms and graduate reading room are lighted from plugs placed in the floor under the desks and so arranged that the plugs can be drawn out of the openings, closed and the floor cleared in a few minutes. The building is fitted throughout with very handsome electric fixtures. The one very important feature of this plant is that it is absolutely fireproof throughout.

In the book stack is placed a telephone exchange having 50 stations, and to this exchange every room and hall in the building is connected, and so arranged that any two departments can be connected together at the central exchange. All wires for this system are run in loricated iron pipe, the same as for electric lighting. The method used for operating this system are storage batteries charged from the dynamos.

There is also a large system of electric bells, an electric button being placed on every desk in the two large students' reading rooms and the graduates' reading room, and in all the professors' rooms and connected to three annunciators placed on pedestals at the entrance to the stack room. There is also a system of electric bells placed at different parts of the building and operated from a master clock to ring the hours of classes, and a system of electric clocks placed in the lecture rooms, reading rooms, which are regulated, wound up and set from one master clock in the Dean's office.

The crowning point of the building is reached with the third floor. There are two great reading rooms, the graduate reading room and the bookstack, besides rooms for the professors

and librarians. The hall upon the north of the staircases is the one which is named for Judge McKean, great grandfather of the donor of the liberal gift of \$100,000 which made all this a possibility now instead of at some date in the far distant. The decorations are pilaster of marble between mullioned windows and a most elaborate ceiling of stucco, harmoniously and artistically colored. The work upon the walls and ceilings is quite unique. This is the largest contract of ornamental plastering ever let in Philadelphia and undoubtedly one of the finest; and was completed by the contractors in about four months' time, the quickest work of the kind on record. There were at times as many as fifty men employed on this work alone. The modelling was done in a studio down town and the work when cast in plaster was delivered to the building and put into place.

Four great fire places give a look of hospitality and a promise of warmth and welcome and add a homeliness to the hall which detracts in no way from its stateliness. In this hall and the hall upon the southern side, which is an exact duplicate, and is called Sharswood Hall, a desk is placed for each student and also a number of desks for visitors. These desks have been designed especially for their present purpose and it has been the aim to have them just high enough, wide enough and deep enough to suit the need it is to fill. Each desk is provided with a lock closet for notes, and an electric bell to call a boy who will carry the book slip to the desk and carry back the wanted volumes. The graduate reading room is a smaller hall, 30 by 34 feet, with a mezzanine gallery running along one side. The decoration of this room is more simple but in the same style as the larger halls. All these halls and also the stair hall will be hung with paintings and engravings of eminent jurists, as the Department already has a collection which has never yet been gathered under one roof. The great stack room rises to the glass roof and has a capacity of 120,000 volumes. At present only two tiers of the stack are in place, but it is thought this will accommodate the present library of twenty-three thousand volumes and a normal growth of two or three years. The book stacks in the "Stack Room" are arranged in alcove form on each side of the room, they are placed at right angles to the side walls, leaving a center connecting corridor. The cases are all double faced so as to allow of easy access to the books. The stacks are of a novel steel construction, now being employed in all modern libraries. Each shelf is of a tray form that is independently adjustable and removable from the supporting standards of the structure. A shelf with its gusto of boards can be removed at will and carried to any part of the building. The cases are now but one tier in height, with a gallery floor, but are so constructed that additional tiers and galleries can be added when required. The corridor end of every case is faced with a moulded steel panel to which the electric lamps are attached.

The two divisions of stacks are connected at the gallery level by bridges that are faced with a suitable railing, and the gallery floor is of perforated iron that admits of a proper diffusion of light, as well as a full circulation of air. Iron staircases at

each end of the room connect the main and gallery floors. The Stack Room can be shut off from the rest of the building by iron sliding doors, rendering the room absolutely fireproof.

A noiseless-running Book Lift, located at the Librarian's Office, connects the gallery above, and is of sufficient size to carry two shelf trays of books.

The entire metal work is finished in enamel bronze green and ivory white, and the effect is most pleasing.

This library, which is less than a dozen years old, has during the past three years sprung from a collection of 10,500 volumes to one of 36,100. In addition to the original gift from the Biddle family, the widow of Mr. Arthur Biddle, early in 1898, presented his library of some four thousand volumes. In addition to this gift a special effort was made to purchase books much needed in the work of the professors and in graduate and original work. The library now ranks with the greater law libraries in the country, and has the advantage of youth in that it has no accumulation of antiquated rubbish, such as must inevitably collect in all libraries, to count on its accession list. In the center of the stack is placed the box where all the Departments communicate with the library and requests for books, information and all service furnished by the library are received and answered. There is a distributing desk at either end of the stack room where two attendants will be ready to receive the slips from the boys in the reading rooms, and will obtain the books asked for. A smaller desk with one attendant will give similar accommodation to the workers in the graduate room. It is hoped the library will prove a great attraction to our graduate workers of the future and that in this attractive room much of most valuable work along the line of original research may be done.

Rooms for the Professors on the library and mezzanine floors are in convenient proximity to the reading and stack rooms, and are fitted up conveniently and comfortably with open fire places, desks, especially designed working tables, and cheerful rugs. Upon the lower mezzanine floors are found the toilet rooms, tiled and marbled and up-to-date in every respect. The plumbing, drainage and ventilation of the new Law School was designed to be of the very best character, one of the principal features being the care exercised in installing the underground drainage, which is of heavy Cast Iron Pipe, encased on all sides by a heavy mass of concrete formed of cement, sand and fine broken stone, insuring it against any chance of a fracture by settlement of ground or other unforeseen causes.

The plumbing fixtures are all set open, having nickel plated exposed pipes, which affords the greatest opportunity for keeping the surroundings clean.

In all parts of the building order, beauty and convenience are united to form a most pleasing whole which is ready for the great opening ceremonies which are to fitly celebrate the completion of the world's newest, finest and most beautiful Law School Building.