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THE COLLEGE OF LAW UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES

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That the College of Law of the University of the Philippines is a complement, more than any other, of the unique legal system obtaining in this country is perhaps the principal fact about that institution. The statement is broad enough to call for an extended exposition, but inasmuch as the subject has already been authoritatively and extensively dealt with by Dean George A. Malcolm in another paper, published in this Journal in 1914, it would be well to confine the present article to something which has not as yet been touched upon—the varied activities of college life in that institution.

Beginning in the year 1910 with a small class in a humble room in the Manila Y. M. C. A. building, unnoticed and even discouraged by the public, it strove through the past six years of its existence until it now counts with a fairly good-sized body of students and enjoys a reputation for high standard of instruction and for many activities which none other of its kind in the Philippines, and for that matter in the Orient, can excel.

There are several forces which have brought about the present status of the College of Law. Dean Malcolm, of course, deserves first mention. It is he who has brought the internal administration of the college to a state of great efficiency, and upon him also has devolved much of the work of arranging an up-to-date curriculum. But his attention has not been directed solely to these matters. His influence may yet be felt in the encouragement of a college spirit and the initiation of student activities.

Turning now to those things in the college life which exist apart from books and study, the Student Council is of the first importance. The representation therein undergoes a careful selection; it is composed of students of proven ability and of the active type. The Dean is the Chairman *ex-officio*, and the rest of the members are the Class Presidents, the Class Representatives, and the heads of the college organizations. In the history of educational institutions in the Philippines, the Student Council of the College of Law stands out a unique creation. There are similar bodies in other colleges, but it is the first of its kind to have existed here. It is the embodiment of a new principle in school administration. The government of the college is no longer left entirely and absolutely to the Dean and the Faculty. Departing from the old precedents, the students through their representatives are

given a voice in the control of college matters. "In the four years of its eventful existence it has helped to arouse and keep up a college spirit which other schools may well envy, besides having continuously put the student body in close touch with the plans and purposes of the Dean and Faculty. Hardly any event in the College transpires without the interposition of the Student Council; hardly any undertaking is begun without its cooperation and support." Under its authority, the Annual Law Dance, the Junior Reception, the Sophomore Smoker, and the Freshmen Spread have become permanent vents and have already been observed for years as college traditions. Through its initiative and efforts, the first University Annual, the "Philippinensian," has been published.

Aside from these there are other events of permanent character which are looked to by all the students with great interest and pride. A student witnessing the annual Inter-class Athletic Meet and Oratorical Contest finds out that the time spent in the College of Law is not absolutely devoted to bookish and sedentary work. There are certain attractions provided whereby the tired mind may be diverted and the monotony of continued study may be broken for some moments. Surely the enthusiasm and the keen but friendly rivalry displayed in the annual athletic meets between the classes, the seeming forgetfulness for the time being by the Seniors, the Juniors, the Sophomores or the Freshmen, of their acquired reserve and certain dignity, the presence of young ladies from the friendly Normall Hall watching the valiant contenders, now and then joining with the rooters of this or that side, and then at the end of the games, the sight of all the athletes, rooters and guests gathered together in a spacious tent, partaking merrily of the refreshments furnished for the purpose—all these lend color to what would otherwise be a dry college life.

Surpassing this, however, in pomp and splendor is the Annual Oratorical Contest. It is perhaps the leading students' entertainment, not only in the College of Law, but also in the whole University. The number and classes of people that attend it proves the great interest which the public has in the oratory that is evoked there. The close rivalry between the contestants, who are selected from among many aspirants, and the great personal honor that seems to be at stake, appeal much to the admiration of the hearers.

What have been already enumerated are perhaps a sufficient demonstration of what new things the College of Law is doing. But there are still certain features worthy of mention which distinguish that institution from other law schools in this country. There are the Moot Court and Practice Clubs which form a part of the regular course of study, giving the students, aside from their theoretical studies, a practical knowledge of court practice and procedure. The students are made familiar with the conduct of trials, so that when they go out they may not be entirely at a loss and be subjected to many embarrassments. These are innovations not yet seen in other Philippine law schools. Conjointly introduced with these is a new field which is of inestimable value to the students and the legal profession in

general. To encourage the production and dissemination of legal knowledge, theses on certain unsettled legal subjects are required for graduation, lectures and addresses by prominent men are given before the Law Forum, and then the publication of this Journal was resolved upon. To extend the operation of the College of Law, special courses are given in addition to the regular course, namely, the Review Course and those for Peace Officers and Justices of the Peace. It is also planned that in time a School of Commerce and Political Science shall be established under the College of Law.

The College of Law therefore, encouraging as it does many college activities and fostering a strong college spirit, has become dear to its students and alumni; following as it does a system of instruction that is at par with those adopted in advanced schools, it has naturally achieved success and won the favor of the public. The record of its graduates in the bar examinations furnishes the public a convincing proof of the thorough training of its students. The College of Law is now a member of the Association of American Law Schools,—a fitting recognition of its high efficiency and up-to-date instruction.



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