

LAW SCHOOL DEVELOPMENTS

Once a year, this department will carry figures on law school registration. In addition it will provide a medium for the description of experiments in curriculum, teaching method, and administration. Like "comments," the typical law school development note will be characterized by brevity and informality; unlike them, it will be descriptive rather than argumentative and will deal primarily with devices which have been tested in actual operation.

SURVEY OF LATIN-AMERICAN LEGAL EDUCATION

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In June of the present year the Inter-American Bar Association initiated a survey of law schools in the Latin-American republics. The survey will cover curricula, methods, physical equipment, library content, personnel, and exchange opportunities. H. Claude Horack, who retired a year ago from the deanship of the Duke Law School and this summer from his professorship there, is conducting the survey as Adviser on Legal Education to the Inter-American Bar Association. The program is being carried out with the aid of a substantial grant from the State Department and will be completed within approximately one year. It appears certain that not all professional training institutions in the area can be included, but it is contemplated that a lengthy visit to at least one university in each of the republics will be made.

There is, of course, now a considerable interchange of students and academic credit between the law schools of the United States and those of Latin America—with the number of applications in both directions showing a marked increase. That such an exchange is desirable and even necessary is demonstrated by the rapidly accelerating business activity between the nations of North and South America and the expanding financial interest of the United States in the commerce and industry of the southern republics. The present hopeful situation has already been recognized by the Association of American Law Schools, which has recently made useful provision for the granting of advanced academic standing in member schools to students whose law study has been accomplished outside the continental limits of the United States. During the past year thirty-five students from Latin-American countries were registered in local law schools, and eight students from the United States have been engaged in legal-professional study in Latin-American countries under the provisions of the so-called "G. I. Bill of Rights."

Since the instructional method in use by civil-law faculties differs sharply from the case method, prevailing generally in the United States in one form or another, and since systems of what may be called academic accounting necessarily vary as between our own schools and those to the south, it has often been difficult to effect a fair and satisfactory exchange of educational

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credits between the two areas. It is hoped—and thoughtfully believed—that through the Inter-American survey will come a better understanding of the factors underlying the present problem, to the end that the transfer of credits may be more easily accomplished. If this desirable result can be achieved it is felt that a rather serious obstacle to intersectional study will have been removed.

The survey began late in June in Ecuador, and has proceeded to Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil, Venezuela, and Colombia. Early in December, when most South American universities begin their long vacations, the Adviser will proceed to Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico, and his tour will end with visits to the educational institutions of Haiti, Santo Domingo, and Cuba.

At the Fifth Conference of the Inter-American Bar Association, held at Lima, Peru, in November, 1947, a movement was initiated looking to the organization of a body which will correspond roughly to our own Association of American Law Schools. Through this "Congress of Professors of Law" an attempt will be made to secure some degree of practical uniformity among Latin-American courses of instruction, and to establish common qualification standards for entrance upon law study. The attainment of these objectives is certain to facilitate greatly the exchange of students both between Latin-American institutions themselves and between Latin-American law schools, on the one hand, and those of the United States on the other.

The Adviser's report on the present venture will be presented at the Sixth Conference of the Inter-American Bar Association, which will be held at Detroit, Michigan, from May 22 to June 1, 1949.

The Association is to be congratulated on having secured the services of Mr. Horack for the survey purpose. For many years a university teacher of law and a law-school administrator, he has always been active in professional affairs, educational and otherwise. He is an ex-secretary and an ex-president of the Association of American Law Schools, and some time ago—on leave from his university connection—served for a fruitful period as full-time Adviser on Legal Education to the American Bar Association. He has made many substantial contributions to the field of educational standards and their enforcement, and it is entirely safe to suggest that no North American lawyer is more experienced than he in law-school visitation and inspection procedures. As Secretary of the Association of American Law Schools and as Adviser to the American Bar Association's Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, he has at one time or another visited virtually every law-teaching institution in the United States.

The current Inter-American survey seems to have begun under happy auspices. It is not doubted that it will add much to our comprehension of intersectional problems of legal education. Moreover, by facilitating the exchange of law students, it can hardly fail to promote a better understanding in both business and cultural relations among the countries of the Western Hemisphere.