Review of “The Professional Ideals of the Lawyer,” By Henry Wynans Jessup

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The author in writing this study of legal ethics has attempted to present a legal treatise which would introduce the young lawyer to the professional ideals and standards of professional conduct adopted by the various bar associations in the country, and thereby enable the young lawyer to take part in the maintenance of those standards and ideals. This task is one which the author is well qualified to fulfill as he has had wide experience in dealing with questions of professional conduct. For sixteen years he was a member of the committee of the New York Lawyers' Association, has been chairman of the Committee on Legal Ethics and Grievances of the American Bar Association, and has been a member of a similar committee in the New York State Bar Association.

The book is peculiar in that it is not strictly a text, being based on the question and answer style. Yet it contains so much more than the ordinary quiz-book that it cannot be classified as such.

The book is divided into six parts. Part one contains sixty-eight pages of questions and annotated answers which substantially introduce the student to the problems of legal ethics. Part two contains eight pages of court questions to be answered by discussion and reference to the Canon. Part three contains the Canons of Judicial Ethics and a set of questions pertinent to the Canon. Part four is a set of questions with appropriate references for answers relating to the lawyer's professional rights. Part five contains Sir Matthew Hale's Rules for the Guidance of Judicial Officers, and Hoffman's Resolutions in Regard to Professional Deportment. Part six is a set of two hundred and thirty-two questions submitted to the Committee of the New York State Association and the answers. The questions cover the field of professional conduct. Part seven is a summary of the causes for discipline of lawyers in the state of New York. One subdivision contains an analysis taken from the cases as to the acts which constitute ground for disbarment. Another section contains the acts which resulted in suspension. Another section relates to acts which resulted in censure, and one section relates to the practice in disbarment proceedings.

In addition, the book contains the Canons of Ethics of The American Bar Association annotated with references to American Digest sections, and a very valuable bibliography of books and articles relating to the study of legal ethics. At the close of the volume there is an
analytical index which enables the investigator to refer to specific problems easily.

The book should be of great value to the legal profession, as it is a very successful attempt to give to the young lawyer a book which will explain to him the nature of professional conduct and thereby enable him to take part in the struggle to maintain the highest professional ideals. To the student the book should be of inestimable value, as it is short enough to be readable, and yet so well condensed that it gives the student a substantial survey of the field of professional conduct.

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This volume consists of a series of lectures delivered before the Bar Association of New York City during the court year of 1921-1922. Mere mention of the names of the lecturers would be sufficient to show that the volume is the work of many distinguished legal scholars and jurists.


Two very interesting, progressive and forward-looking lectures are those of Judge Benjamin N. Cardozo, of the New York Court of Appeals, on "Progress in the Law: A Ministry of Justice" (also printed in Harvard Law Review, Vol. XXXV), and "Can We Improve Our Sources of the Law?" by Justice Francis J. Swayze of the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

There are two lectures on constitutional questions. One entitled "Canadian Constitutional Law," by Rt. Hon. Charles J. Doherty of Montreal; the other by Augustus N. Hand United States District Judge, called "A Sketch of Constitutional Law in America."

There is an interesting article on "James Kent," in which the author, Mr. Hampton L. Carson, of the Philadelphia bar, draws many comparisons between this great American commentator and Blackstone.

Unfortunately for the average reader, over one-third of the book contains lectures of peculiar interest and value to the New York prac-