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# Training for a Profession--Law

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## LAW

BY PROFESSOR R. W. ATGLER.

So long as human conduct and relations must accord with pre-established and determinable rules, the study of law, and the practice thereof, will be of absorbing interest. When we consider further that our government is one of law, and that the positions of highest responsibility therein are such that training in law is peculiarly desirable, it is not at all surprising that many young men have taken to the legal profession.

If a young man's chief ambition is to become wealthy he had better give up the idea of practicing law. The trials of the young attorney in making a living even for himself are well known. While most lawyers of any real ability are able ultimately to make a comfortable living for themselves and families, and a few become well-to-do or even rich, the lawyer must expect to get his principal compensations in a feeling of independence and a realization that he is able to contribute very directly, and in large measure, to social development and political progress.

Professor Parker has well pointed out that a childish love for mechanical toys and their operation does not necessarily mean that the child has a natural aptitude for engineering. So also it may be said that a boyish inclination to be disputatious and argumentative does not by any means indicate that there is good material for a lawyer. Nor does oratorical ability indicate a fitness for the practice of law. There was a time when an ability to move to tears was considered a very large asset, but times have changed, and many of the most able and successful lawyers have but little speaking ability.

Just as it is often said that baseball players are born, so we frequently hear that some men have a legal instinct. This instinct is probably nothing more than a naturally active, orderly mind. Such a mind properly trained generally and specially with the resulting general education, coupled with a willingness to work hard and constantly, will go a long way in making one a successful lawyer. Anyone who expects to observe union hours had better take up some other life work. In addition to the qualities just mentioned, a man to be a successful lawyer must have that indefinable quality—personality. He must be able to understand men and their ways and to deal with them.

Every period of reconstruction in the past has been filled with work and opportunities for far-seeing lawyers. How far the present great struggle will have undermined and upset established institutions and ideas, no one can foretell. If there ever was a need for well trained members of the bar with vision, it cannot have been greater than at the present time.