II. ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT

GENERAL STATEMENT

The University of Chicago Law School was established in 1902. It aims to give a thorough legal training to students whose education and maturity have fitted them to pursue serious professional study. The method of instruction employed—the study and discussion of cases—is designed to give an effective knowledge of legal principles and to develop the power of independent legal reasoning. The course of study offered, requiring three academic years for completion, is not local in its scope, but constitutes a thorough preparation for the practice of law in any English-speaking jurisdiction. By taking advantage of the quarter system (see “General Information,” p. 8, below) students may complete the course in two and one-fourth calendar years.

Only college graduates or students who have had college work equivalent to three years in the University are admitted as candidates for the degree of Doctor of Law (J.D.), which is conferred upon college graduates only. The University permits one year of law to be counted as the fourth year of college work, and confers an academic bachelor's degree upon candidates for J.D. who have completed one year in the Law School, thus enabling them to obtain both the academic and the professional degree in six years. (See “Degrees,” below, p. 6.) Students over twenty-one years old are admitted as candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) upon the conditions stated below, p. 5, under “Admission.”

It is very desirable that the preliminary education of law students should include work in history, economics, and political science, and provision has been made in the third college year for pre-legal study devoted chiefly to these subjects. This course is not required, but students expecting to study law are strongly advised to pursue it. Its suggested topics are found below, p. 10, under “Pre-legal Courses.”

THE LAW BUILDING

The Law School occupies a building within the University quadrangles, erected especially for it in 1904. It is three stories high, 175 feet long, and 80 feet wide, built of stone in the English Gothic style of architecture. On the first floor are four lecture rooms, two of which are in theater form. The mezzanine floor is occupied by the library stack-room, connected with the reading-room above by electric book lifts and designed to contain steel stacks for 90,000 volumes. Opening into the stack-room are studies for members of the Faculty and the Librarian's room. On the third floor is the reading-room, a great hall with high timbered ceiling, 160 feet long and 50 feet wide, lighted on all sides by Gothic windows. It has wall shelves for 14,000 books and provides space for tables accommodating 400 readers. Adjoining the reading-room is the office of the Dean. In the basement is a smoking-room and the locker-room, containing several hundred steel-mesh lockers for the use of students.

THE LIBRARY

The Law Library contains about 39,000 volumes. Except a few county court decisions, it includes all of the American, English, Irish, Scotch, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand, and higher Indian reports, with their digests; all
past and present codes and statutory revisions of those jurisdictions; the recent South African reports; all English, Irish, and Scotch statutes, and (except the early laws of some of the older states) the session laws of all the American states and Canadian provinces; all collateral reports and series of classified cases in use; an extensive collection of treatises, periodicals, trials, and legal miscellany, including a large amount of old English historical material; and a working library in French, German, Spanish, and Mexican law.

Students in the Law School may use the other University libraries, containing over 390,000 volumes.

PRACTICE COURSES, MOOT COURTS, AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

To familiarize students with the more generally prevailing rules of procedure in American courts, courses in practice are offered in the second and third years of the curriculum, which include a study of the processes of litigation, and practical exercises in the preparation and trial of cases. Both courses are required of all law students.

The former law clubs have been replaced by a Moot Court conducted by the School, in which every entering student is given opportunity to obtain some experience in brief-making and legal argument under competent supervision. Systematic instruction is also given in the use of digests and other legal search-books.

The University courses in public speaking and debate are open without extra charge to students of the Law School, and law students are eligible for the University prize debates, and for places upon the intercollegiate debating teams.

ADMISSION TO THE LAW SCHOOL

a) Admission to the Law School as candidates for the degree of J.D. is granted:

1. To college graduates whose degrees represent college work equivalent to twenty-seven majors (three years) in the University.

2. To students who have completed in the University or elsewhere twenty-seven majors (three years) of college work. Credit will be given for acceptable work done in other institutions of collegiate rank. Before receiving the degree of J.D. such students must obtain from the University or from some other approved institution an academic degree, and are permitted to count toward this one year of law. See the statement below, p. 6, under "Degrees."

b) Admission to the Law School as candidates for the degree of LL.B. is granted:

To students over twenty-one years old who have completed approved high-school or college work equivalent in amount to at least fifteen units of admission credit to the University (the usual college-entrance requirement—ordinarily satisfied by four years of high-school work). This work must include three units in English. Certain special rules apply to students from the Junior Colleges. Candidates for this degree are strongly urged to complete at least one year of pre-legal work (see p. 10, below) before entering the Law School, and must maintain an average standing in their law work 10 per cent above the passing-mark.

1 By special permission of the Dean admission may be granted to students who have credit for but twenty-four majors, but such students must make up the deficiency before obtaining an academic degree from the University. Such permission will ordinarily be granted only in the Autumn Quarter to enable students to take advantage of courses beginning then. (See "The Quarter System," p. 8, below.)