

OPPORTUNITY AND DUTY IN AMERICA

By COURT F. WOOD.

(Principal of Wood's Commercial School.)

How can I serve my country to the best advantage? Is the question every true American is asking himself today. The question many persons are asking themselves is, "How can I get others to serve my country to the best advantage?" There are many men in the Government service who ought to be at the front in France, and they can be released for military service if women will qualify to do the work these men are doing. Right here is an opportunity for women to be of real service to their country. Learn shorthand, typewriting, and bookkeeping; or one of these thoroughly, and you will be able to release a man for the trenches. Perhaps 90 per cent of the Government work was done by men when the war began, and when it is over 90 per cent will be done by women, and be done just as well, if not better.

Opportunity is knocking at the door of every woman in the land; and remember this, Uncle Sam is not going to pay women \$1,200 a year to do congenial office work, and men \$300 to kill and be killed in battle, for all time to come. We hope the war will end soon, and when it does, the boys who have won glory upon the field of battle will be entitled to have a choice of positions they are capable of filling. The incompetent ones will have to go, and their places will be filled by those who have been ambitious, and who have mastered shorthand, typewriting, filing, stenotypy, and bookkeeping. There are several good business schools in Washington, and there is no excuse for one to remain ignorant.

Do not complain about anything. Is your lot harder than that of the boys in France? If prices are high, is not your salary high? If you have to pay more for an article than formerly, you have the money to pay for it, then why should you worry? Wait a year from now, and you will have some cause to worry; especially if you have neglected to prepare yourself for better work. If you are employed in a nonessential industry, resign at once, and get a position in an essential industry.

During the past eighteen months 13,000 stenographers have been appointed to positions through the civil service, while only 2,000 were appointed during the preceding eighteen months. The United States employment service has unfilled requests for 3,000 stenographers at the present time; one bureau calls for 600. Does this mean anything to you? Why not get ready at once for one of these positions?

G. W. U. LAW SCHOOL TO OPEN SEPT. 25

The George Washington University Law School, the oldest law school in the District of Columbia, will begin its fifty-fourth year on September 25. Owing to war conditions, it is anticipated that the attendance this year will be somewhat less than normal. More than 200 students of the school are now in army and navy service. It seems likely, however, that this depletion of the student body will be compensated for to a large extent by students who are coming to the school with advanced credit for work done in other law schools.

This school, being the only member of the Association of American Law Schools in the District of Columbia, gives and receives the fullest credit for work done in other association schools. Moreover, it is co-educational, and there are many women to be found in its student body. This part of its student body will, of course, not be affected by war conditions. The progressive tendency of this school in admitting women now has the sanction of the American Bar Association, which at its meeting, recently held in Cleveland, admitted women to its membership.

Legal Afternoon Classes. This school offers ample facilities for legal education to employed students. Those in the Government service and in private offices may take all of their class work in the afternoon from 5 to 8:30 o'clock. Some courses are offered in the early morning, from 7:50 to 8:40 o'clock. The advantage of these class hours is that they utilize time that would otherwise be wasted and leave the student his evenings for uninterrupted study, which would be impossible with classes held at night. This arrangement gives employed students many of the facilities of a day law school.

To insure a student body of a high character and thus secure an intellectual and stimulating atmosphere in the classroom, the authorities of the law school have adopted the rule that all regular students before being admitted must have completed at least standard four-year high school course, such as would ordinarily be sufficient to entitle them to admission to the freshman class of a college or university, and this rule is enforced strictly. This requirement is that of the Association of American Law Schools, of which the school is the only member in the District of Columbia.

Although the high school requirement is the minimum, as a matter of fact nearly two-thirds of the regular students have had at least part of a college course in addition, and about one-third are college graduates. Most of them are mature men, many with considerable experience, and a large majority are self-supporting. The result of these conditions is a body of serious minded, intelligent students, not excelling in enthusiasm for study and in mental caliber by those in any other law school in the country.

As the best law schools aim to conduct it is not the acquisition of rules as facts by memorizing, but mental discipline and training in legal reasoning, accompanied by a thorough knowledge and understanding of fundamental legal principles and the reasons underlying them, not knowledge alone, but the power to solve legal problems, the faculty sometimes called a "legal mind." The modern law school is not a school for craftsmen, but for scientists. The George Washington University Law School endeavors to maintain these university ideals in legal education.

The experience of the past twenty-five years has demonstrated that the best and most scientific legal training can be obtained by study under what is popularly known as the "case method." At George Washington the topics of substantive law are taught by this method. The case method has now become an accepted fact in American legal education, and is used in more than 90 per cent of the leading law schools which comprise the Association of American Law Schools.

The development of legal education to a professional and university basis has been marked by a steady increase in the number of instructors devoting their entire time to law teaching. In the George Washington University Law School most of the courses in substantive law, dealing with fundamental principles and legal theories, are in charge of such instructors. These men have been trained in the best modern law schools, and in accordance with the widely approved methods. They devote their entire time to teaching and research, and can thus lay emphasis upon methods of instruction as well as upon subject matter. They have offices at the school and are accessible to the students daily for consultation and individual assistance.

Practical Instruction. Besides aiming to develop in the student the "legal mind" which is the aim of modern legal training, the law school endeavors to give as much instruction as is practicable in procedure and practice. The adjective law courses in procedure, evidence, legal tactics and ethics, brief making, preparation of legal instruments, organization of corporations, and moot court, dealing with the practical application of the legal principles taught in the other classes, are in charge of judges and lawyers in active practice.

Particular emphasis is laid upon moot court, in the three branches of which—equity, circuit, and criminal—every third-year student is required to try several cases to a conclusion in accordance with the rules of legal procedure. This court has been successfully operated for more than twenty years, and has been chosen as a model by several other law schools.

The results of the efforts of the faculty to maintain high standards

and to require thorough preparation, and of the methods of instruction, which have for their aim the development in the students of intellectual power and independence of thought as well as the acquisition of knowledge, should appear in the product, the graduates. Their remarkable success at the bar examinations is a matter of pride and gratification to the faculty. No special emphasis is laid upon preparation for the bar examination in this or any other jurisdiction, but the student receives such general training in methods, such thorough knowledge of legal principles, and such power to think clearly and straight along legal lines, that the graduate can readily prepare himself for bar examination and for practice in any common law jurisdiction.

WASHINGTON LAW TO OPEN SEPT. 30

The Washington College of Law, which is co-educational, is preparing for a large registration with the opening of its twenty-third year on September 30.

The college offers a practical, comprehensive course to students wishing to do serious, intensive work. The classes are divided into two sections, one meeting at 4:50 and the other at 6:30. This insures smaller classes, permitting frequent informal conferences and more attention to the individual needs of the students. The faculty is made up of professional teachers and lawyers in active practice. Instruction is by lectures, textbooks and cases, with frequent conferences and quizzes. The efficacy of this method is shown by the results of the bar examinations, the percentage of Washington College of Law graduates passing these examinations being unusually high.

The college offers the following special courses with teachers of wide experience: An international law course of twenty-four lessons taking up treaties and decisions of the courts relating to international questions. A knowledge of the past actions of nations will be a basis for the better understanding of the problems to be settled when peace comes.

A constitutional law course of thirty-two lessons taking up leading cases on the United States Constitution decided by the United States Supreme Court. There are also courses on the laws governing two important Government commissions, namely the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Federal Trade Commission, as well as a course on patent and trade mark law, open to special students.

The formal opening will be held at the college, 1317 New York avenue, at 7 o'clock on September 30. At this time assignments will be made for the first classes. Classes will begin October 2.

G. W. U. HOURS SUIT U.S. WAR WORKERS

The George Washington University is one of the old institutions of the country. It was chartered by Congress in 1821 under the name of Columbian College, and in 1873 the name was changed to Columbian University. In 1904, largely because of the increasing confusion from the similarity of its name to that of Columbia University in New York, Congress authorized the university to change its name to George Washington University. The old name is continued in its college of arts, called Columbian College.

The original site was on Fourteenth street, about where Euclid street is now. In 1884, because of its desire to utilize more fully the facilities of Washington and to provide more efficiently for the educational needs of the large number of ambitious persons in the Government service, it moved to the heart of the city. Its wisdom of this is shown by the fact that last year it had more than

2,200 students, the largest in its history, and about seven times the number in attendance in 1884.

Educationally the university is divided into the department of arts and sciences, the department of law, and the department of medicine and dentistry. Under its educational direction are two affiliated schools, the college of pharmacy and the college of veterinary medicine. Since it was founded in 1821 it has conferred over 8,000 degrees, and upward of 2,000 of its graduates are now living in Washington. Full data have not yet been obtained, but it is thought that 2,000 of its graduates and former students are serving in the military forces of the United States.

Under the department of arts and sciences are given graduate and undergraduate courses in a wide range of subjects, and the students are registered in the graduate school, in Columbian College, in the college of engineering, or in teachers' college,

according to the character of their major work.

It was the first university in the country to give courses of regular college grade at hours convenient to persons employed during the day, and its example has been followed by nearly all of the leading city universities. While a longer time is required to obtain a degree, it is possible for a person in Government employ to attend classes in the late afternoon and complete courses leading to a degree in arts, in engineering, or in chemistry.

Its law school is one of the best-known schools in the country, a mem-

ber of the American Association of Law Schools, and is famous for its high standards and the professional rank of its graduates. The character of its medical school is shown by the fact that about 16 per cent of the medical officers of the regular army hold its degrees.

Rear Admiral Charles H. Stockton, who had served as its president for nine years, retired on September 4, and was succeeded as president by William Miller Collier, LL. D., former minister to Spain, and distinguished as lawyer, writer, and diplomat. All departments of the university will open Wednesday, September 25.



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