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HENRY MOORE BATES

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THE retirement of Dean Bates during the present year has brought to a close his active service of thirty-six years as a law teacher, and twenty-nine as Dean of the University of Michigan Law School.

Dean Bates began his university career at a time when the Law School, like those of other leading American universities, was in the historic stage of transition from the performance of its traditional function as a vocational training school to that of the more intensive investigation and study of the law as a branch of the social sciences, by methods and with objectives which were to make a more appropriate subject of university study. The School was then the heir of a great teaching tradition, dating from the days when Judge Cooley's lectures had won for it a nation-wide reputation. But with it, as with other law schools of the time, there was need, if it was to reach its full stature, for more intimate association of its work with university studies in government and the social sciences. Without minimizing the importance of legal technique in the training of lawyers for the practice of their profession, the time had come for a more adequate appreciation of the relationship of law to social and economic forces which create it and to the nature of its function as a means of social control. As an indispensable aid to the attainment of these ends, there was need too for greater emphasis on scholarship, on research and on publication.

To this great undertaking Dean Bates has brought the resources of an engaging personality, scholarly training, exceptional gifts as a teacher, and a true vision of the needs and future progress of university law school training. Under his guidance for more than a quarter of a century, the record of the Law School has been one of steady and consistent progress toward realization of an educational ideal, that training of the lawyer's facility in the technical skills of his profession must be tempered and guided by understanding of their social purpose and of the consequences to society of their misuse.

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Few careers afford greater opportunity for public service or more durable satisfactions than that of the law teacher. It was Dean Bates' particular good fortune to have had both the opportunity and special aptitude for participation in what must be regarded in many respects as one of the most significant educational advances of our times. It was a happy circumstance, too, that the munificent Cook bequest for the benefit of the Law School became available during his administration and that he has had the satisfaction of seeing established at the University, under his direction, all the physical equipment which an informed skill and ingenuity could devise for the training of lawyers in research in legal science, and for the intimate association at a common meeting place of students and teachers of the law with members of the bench and bar.

Dean Bates lays down his work at a time when it can be said that he has successfully carried forward the great task which lay before him when he became Dean. He leaves the School endowed with a wealth of material resources and generously housed in architectural forms of enduring beauty, beyond the fondest aspirations of those who envisaged its future a quarter of a century ago. More important, he leaves it with a spiritual and intellectual endowment which has enabled it to keep pace with the swift progress of legal education in this country, and which now affords the best assurance of its future usefulness.

The contributors of this number of the Michigan Law Review join in this tribute in recognition that the occasion is one for congratulation to Dean Bates for a public service so admirably performed, and to the School, and to all those who have at heart the welfare of legal education, that it has been the beneficiary of an administration so long continued, so devoted, and so enlightened.