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Law-Medicine and Professional Responsibility: A Symposium

Foreword

As one of the significant events closing its Centennial Year, Louisiana State University, through its schools of Law and Medicine, on May 25, 1960, sponsored a program consisting of an afternoon symposium and a dinner devoted to a consideration of the general theme of "The Public Responsibility of the Learned Professions." The Louisiana Law Review is pleased to publish in this issue three of the papers delivered at this program.

Dean John W. Wade of Vanderbilt University School of Law in his discussion, "The Public Responsibility of the Learned Professions," provides fresh insight into the nature of learned professions and he writes with deep perception in his consideration of responsibilities of the learned professions to their clientele, to their professions, and to society in general. He has re-emphasized ethical and service obligations and concepts which must constantly be kept before members of the two typically learned professions of law and medicine.

Professor Robert E. Mathews of Ohio State University, from his broad background of experience and from his dedicated interest in this most important subject, has provided a comprehensive analysis probing the constant and practical problem of methods of teaching the ethical values and professional ideals which should characterize members of the learned professions. His thoughtful paper on "Education for Professional Responsibility" emphasizes the value of the human personality — "the value that moved the Good Samaritan" — and his presentation merits careful study by both the professions of law and medicine.

Dean E. Blythe Stason of the University of Michigan, now Administrator of the American Bar Foundation, whose long and brilliant record as legal scholar and law school administrator entitles him to speak with authority, discusses the rewarding aspects of professional activities in law and medicine, the meaning of professional responsibility in terms of "statesmanship as

distinguished from craftsmanship," and he speaks with broad vision of the obligations of universities with respect to education for professional responsibility, both as applied to domestic problems and in the world community. The readers of the Law Review will find Dean Stason's paper on "Why a Profession" a most rewarding and enjoyable experience.

Louisiana State University, bringing to a close its first one hundred years of educational service, is pleased to share the thoughts of these distinguished speakers and writers with all those who continue to be concerned over the deeper meaning and significance of learned professional activity in any sphere. Neither the challenges which face the University in its second century nor the ideals of the founding leaders of a hundred years ago can be met or realized without continued re-emphasis upon and rededication to the ideals of public responsibility which constitute the common obligation of professional men. The papers published in this symposium are responsive to this obligation and their authors enable us to see more clearly and vividly the educational and professional responsibilities that lie ahead.

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Dean