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EDITORIAL

Nathan William MacChesney

General Nathan William MacChesney, member of the bar and civic leader, has been associated with this *Journal* from its beginning until his death on September 25, 1954.

In 1908 he joined with the late John Henry Wigmore, Dean of the Northwestern University Law School in planning what has proven to be an event of first magnitude as measured by its effect upon Criminology and public attitudes as reflected in criminal law and procedure in the United States and even beyond our borders. They were then looking forward to a suitable marking of the fiftieth anniversary of the Law School in 1909.

It was their design to mark the anniversary, not by an array of congratulatory addresses to be delivered and forgotten, but by launching a movement that would have continuing vitality, and that might be expected to contribute from day to day to improvement in the administration of criminal justice.

To that end General MacChesney was active in cooperation with Dean Wigmore and a committee of their colleagues. Preliminary plans were drawn for a national conference on Criminal Law and Criminology to be held in Chicago, under the auspices of the Northwestern University, in June, 1909. Already scholarly representatives of several independent sciences in the Americas and abroad had begun pioneer research into problems of delinquency and criminal behavior, criminal court procedure, and into the treatment of violators of the law.

The result was the first broadly representative congress of its kind in our country. Indeed, it may be said to have set a pattern which has been repeated times without number in the course of subsequent years. The Governors of the States and the Chief Justices of State Supreme Courts were requested and urged to appoint delegates who should attend the conference as guests of the University. Thus there came together in June, 1909, an assemblage of judges, prosecuting attorneys, and other distinguished members of the bar, and not only they, but representatives of various sciences. There were anthropologists, sociologists, physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, police, prison wardens and representatives of voluntary organizations of that day which were concerned with the relief of the unfortunate. They came from all parts of the Union.

Each attendant, before arrival upon the scene was requested to propose appropriate topics for consideration. It can be surmised that the total was a great volume and that the variety was phenomenal. The first task was to make selections from the whole and to arrange them in sections which could be conveniently handled in sectional meetings. General MacChesney carried his full share of this great load of details.

As the discussions proceeded in conference it began to dawn upon the delegates that a permanent organization should be effected—one that would undertake serious study of the outstanding problems before the conference and make annual reports of their findings. That was the beginning of the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology. Dean Wigmore was its President during the first year of its history, and General MacChesney during its second year. He followed the work of its committees closely. At the end of his Presidential year, at the annual meeting in conjunction with the American Bar Association, reports were presented from standing committees on Criminal Procedure, Criminal Statistics, Probation, Crime and Immigration, Insanity and Responsibility, and Indeterminate Sentence.

General MacChesney was active in the inauguration of this *Journal*, a generous contributor to a fund to meet its initial expenses, and a member of the Editorial Board. He was also vitally interested in the welfare of the *Journal's* sponsoring institution, The Northwestern University School of Law. The following resolution of the Law School's Faculty is a fine testimonial to that effect:

"The death of Nathan William MacChesney represents the loss of a distinguished patron of the Law School and of a valued friend of the Faculty. His imagination contributed greatly to the development of the Chicago Campus of the University and the building of our Law School there nearly thirty years ago. He was a founder of the Illinois Law Review and of the Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology, and a member of their Boards until his death.

"General MacChesney's activities ranged far beyond our Law School or the University of which he was a trustee. He was a soldier with colorful memories of his Rough Rider days, an author in the fields of law, real estate, and history, lawyer and leader of the bar. He was president, trustee, or official of numerous charitable, educational, and other organizations dedicated to public service.

"His was a fruitful life indeed, but it is remembered by us best in the mellowing background of his later years. Although he held strong views on public questions and was always ready to defend his positions against any of us with whom he happened to differ, age brought tolerance rather than inflexibility, and warm friendship rather than misunderstanding. Affection, gratitude, and respect shall always be intermingled in our thoughts of him."

THE EDITORS