

In calling attention to these new classes of membership the Secretary requests members who wish to avail themselves of the opportunity of becoming contributing or supporting members to notify him promptly. It is anticipated that the response to this new opportunity to serve the Society will be widespread.

A permanent Endowment Committee was appointed by the Executive Council for the purpose of securing patrons and subscriptions to the endowment fund. The members of the Committee are: Phanor J. Eder, George A. Finch, John Maktos, George Rublee, and Lester H. Woolsey. Members who wish to become patrons or to subscribe to the endowment fund are requested to communicate with any of the foregoing members of the Committee or with the Secretary.

Our Society enjoys today its greatest opportunity to render intelligent service in the planning and organization of a law-governed world community of nations. With the united coöperation of our entire membership we will meet this challenge.

JAMES OLIVER MURDOCK  
*Secretary*

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#### DEATH OF DR. VIKTOR BRUNS

Dr. Viktor Bruns, probably the leading German authority on international law, died in Königsberg, Germany, on September 22, 1943, at the early age of 58. Personable, genial, learned and broad-gauged, he rendered exceptional service to legal education, to scholarship and to his profession. The son of a former Prime Minister of Württemberg, and a member of a family distinguished in the field of statecraft and jurisprudence, he came to international law through the channels of Roman and civil law. In 1910, at the age of 26, he became associate professor of Roman law at Geneva, and probably there acquired that fluency in French which made him as expert a pleader in French as in German. From Geneva he was called to Berlin as associate professor in 1912, becoming a full professor in 1920. There in 1925 he founded the Institute of International Law and Foreign Public Law which will remain a monument to his scholarship, his initiative, his tact and his vision. At a time when economic conditions were serious in Germany, he was able to persuade the Ministry of Education and the research foundation known as the Kaiser Wilhelm Gesellschaft to appropriate funds to enable him to establish the Institute which unofficially bears his name, and of which he became and remained the active Director. He was an important factor in bringing about the establishment of the parallel Institute for Private International Law and Foreign Private Law under the directorship of Professor Rabel.

Beginning with a narrow circle of devoted students and disciples, he assembled over the years a library in international and comparative law con-

sidered among the best in Europe and gathered together a widening group of research workers from all parts of the world who were trained for varying periods in public law and then took their places in the faculties and administrative agencies of Germany and other countries. Dr. Bruns planned and supervised with his able assistants an important body of research which has placed the world in his debt. Among the more notable publications of the Institute are the *Fontes Juris Gentium*, including digests of the legal material to be found in the diplomatic archives of Europe, systematically classified, known as the Digest of the Diplomatic Correspondence of the European States, 1856–1871 and 1871–1878, in seven volumes; a digest of the decisions and opinions of the Permanent Court of International Justice, 1922–1930; a digest of the decisions of national courts in the field of international law, of which only the volume for Germany (1879–1929) has appeared; a three volume collection of political treaties since 1920 and documents of the League of Nations on the security question; the distinguished *Zeitschrift für ausländisches öffentliches Recht und Völkerrecht*, which had reached volume 9 by 1940. These publications often appeared in several languages and were equipped with meticulous scientific apparatus.

Since only the best of Bruns' students at Berlin University, as well as qualified scholars from other countries, were selected for the Institute, "graduation" therefrom with a favorable recommendation was a certificate of merit opening many doors on the Continent. Dr. Bruns' vast administrative responsibility, in spite of a continuous struggle with poor health in his later years, did not prevent him from writing monographs, from contributing valuable articles to the *Zeitschrift*, or from acquiring among statesmen and academicians an exceptional reputation for mature scholarship and wisdom. His personality and equipment were such that he could step from his directorship or professorship into an arbitral litigation as counsel or judge with equal facility. His services for this exacting work were in constant demand. His four day argument before the Permanent Court of International Justice in the Austrian Customs Union case remains a recognized masterpiece of forensic advocacy. His briefs are models. He sat on many arbitral tribunals and had he been permitted by the German Government, after the death of Judge Schücking, to become a candidate for a judgeship on the Permanent Court of International Justice, would undoubtedly have been elected. While he sought for his Institute detachment from all governmental influence, he nevertheless made the Institute available for legal studies, memoranda and opinions to the Foreign Office and other ministries in Germany and elsewhere, a service frequently invoked. His own opinions were many. Although never a member of the "Party," and revolted by much that offended his own elevated principles, he thought it best to carry on, keeping the Institute out of Party control and maintaining its high standards. This was no easy task. His manifold services, often without knowledge of the victim, to those banished or threatened with banishment, will probably never be

fully known. What will now happen to the great Institute which he founded and brought to such high estate is a matter of conjecture. While a man of extreme modesty, he must have regarded the Institute as the crowning achievement of his life. It is a pity that American foundations have failed to endow a similar educational research institute in this country. In the passing of Professor Bruns the world has lost one of its most constructive thinkers and doers.

EDWIN BORCHARD.

WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE LAW SECTION OF THE  
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

This war has greatly stimulated interest in international law, particularly that of lawyers. Also there has grown an insistent demand for progress in this field. The American Bar Association responded by issuing various directives to its International and Comparative Law Section which were initiated by the Section itself. The international law side of the Section's work has therefore received the greater emphasis this past year, although comparative law has not been neglected.

From the standpoint of accomplishment this year's work can best be reviewed by considering the resolutions presented by the Section at the March meeting of the Association's House of Delegates and the sequel to their adoption.

*An Effective International Order*

RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association endorses, as one of the primary war and peace objectives of the United Nations, agreement among such nations for the complete establishment and maintenance at the earliest possible moment of an effective international order among all nations based on law and the orderly administration of justice.

This resolution precipitated the most spirited and lengthy debate of the entire session of the House of Delegates. Opposition centered upon the idea that "an effective international order" implied an endorsement of the League of Nations or its equivalent. Supporters of the resolution contended that this war will have been fought in vain unless it results in preventing future wars and that some kind of international order is essential to that desired result. This latter view prevailed.

The Section has not attempted to devise a general world plan, for the House of Delegates at the same meeting adopted the report of its Special Committee on Correlation of Post-War Work wherein the Committee expressed "the opinion . . . that the political, social and economic aspects . . . are foreign to the objects of the Organized Bar, even though many men and women of the profession in their individual capacities as citizens will feel free to engage in the study and attempted solution."

However, this Special Committee (of which the chairman of the Section was one of the three members who prepared the report) added ". . . it is pointed out that the lasting settlement of post-war conditions requires the