time for leisure, healthful relaxation and the social affairs of life.

Why grind out our lives in hopeless bondage to the practice. One of the leaders of the bar in a neighboring state, broken in health, and worried over family troubles, said to a friend of mine not long ago: "What a fool I am! I've been too busy to be a real father to my children, too busy to enjoy the companionship of my wife, too busy to be a friend to my friends and a neighbor to my neighbors. I've missed the very best things of life and now it is too late." Good health, recreation, and time for relaxation are absolutely essential. Management will solve that problem. It systematizes the work, eliminates worry and waste effort, saves time and energy, and releases a margin of time for recreation and the social side of life.

There is no need for pessimism. The lawyer has a definite function to perform in society. It will always be a necessary function. Change though it may, the need is still there. Looking ahead there are great opportunities for creative effort in the field of the law. That is the challenge of the future.

This is the purpose of my message here today, to stir up a resolution to keep pace with the changing law

Wherever this library problem arises some lawyers will no doubt be heard to say that no good purpose is served by pointing out either the need for or the desirability of having such bar libraries, as the expense involved renders such an undertaking altogether impractical. It goes without saying that there are numerous communities where the same expensive sets of law books can be found duplicated over and over again, frequently in the same building and sometimes on the same floor, and yet other highly desirable books are not available at all, it is ridiculous to assert that the question of expense is the chief obstacle. Each of such private collections has frequently cost several thousand dollars to assemble, and the annual maintenance bills are necessarily considerable. When to these expenses is added the rent for extra office space there can be little doubt but that the financial burden is usually out of all proportion to the benefits received, even by the few lawyers who are so fortunate as to be able to afford such libraries. Is not the public, which in the final analysis pays the bill, entitled to ask the question: “Is the local bar rendering a service commensurate with the cost?”

Thus it should be perfectly clear that in any community where such duplication is at all general there is some other obstacle which is preventing the development of such a working law library as should be available to the bench and bar as a whole, to supplement the printed materials that every lawyer should have immediately at hand if he can possibly afford them. Upon analysis, the fundamental difficulty will invariably be found to be an almost total lack of capacity for effective cooperation, a typical shortcoming of a profession which has until quite recently been guided by such a highly individualistic tradition that its own development has been seriously impeded, and even perfectly apparent self-interest has been sacrificed for the sake of avoiding any change in customary behavior.

Obviously, such an attitude alone is obstacle enough but that it can be overcome is conclusively demonstrated not only by the actual existence of highly effective cooperation with respect to a diversity of enterprises, but by the fact that here and there bar libraries have been established and successfully maintained in such smaller cities. Because conditions differ the same plan cannot be followed in every instance.

Each group of lawyers must no doubt carefully study local conditions to ascertain the probable sources of revenue, the number of lawyers and public officials who may be interested, and the most practical form of sponsorship. However, no local group need rely entirely upon its own efforts, nor must it altogether depend upon the slow and painful process of trial and error. In the first place, the fullest advantage should be taken of the experiences of lawyers in other similar communities. By so doing it will, among other things, be found that the gift of a lawyer's private library sometimes provides the nucleus around which such an enterprise is developed, that necessary funds may be derived from membership fees, gifts, contributions from the city, county or state, that it is not an uncommon practice for one of the latter to provide quarters without cost, and that custody of the books and supervision of the library may at the outset at least be provided at nominal cost through the employment of some person with other duties not inconsistent with his or her responsibilities as librarian.

In the second place, an additional source of helpful information should not be overlooked. The very conditions that are making bar libraries necessary have brought into being a highly specialized professional group, the law librarians, a group which is primarily concerned with these problems and is actively endeavoring to solve them. There can be no doubt about the fact that law librarians, both individually and through their national group, the American Association of Law Libraries, are willing to render all possible assistance. The field is obviously new and undeveloped and, hence, the answers to many questions are not yet in hand. Nevertheless, experienced persons are in the field and useful data is beginning to accumulate. It is obviously short sighted not to draw upon these sources of possible helpful information and assistance.

However, there can be no doubt about the fact that a constructive attitude on the part of the lawyers themselves is a prerequisite to all further action. They must not only clearly see the need and feel a desire to satisfy it but a few at least must be imbued with that degree of enthusiasm that is required to bring to fruition any difficult undertaking. Certainly it is hard to imagine a more ideal objective for leaders of the bar to select for the purpose of bringing the lawyers of a particular community together in the pursuit of a common goal. A bar library is not only very much worth while on its own account, but because of its more or less neutral character, interest in it should allay rather than increase local jealousies and rivalries. Success in such a venture would almost necessarily engender a better professional spirit among the members.

As the younger lawyers, usually without law books of their own, are the most likely to feel the need and because they are generally more receptive to new ideas, the development of a bar library would seem to be peculiarly within the province of the local junior bar association. For the very same reasons the Junior Bar Conference of the American Bar Association and the State Junior Bar Sections might well give serious consideration to the opportunities that lie directly in their paths. Unquestionably the time is ripe for concerted effort. The phenomenal success of the institutes for lawyers in reality a rather closely related activity, is a present demonstration of what may happen when a widespread but more or less vaguely felt need is met through the development of an effective program under the leadership of a few informed and intelligent persons.

2. Although it is primarily concerned with the larger bar libraries, a recent article by James C. Baxter, Librarian of the Philadelphia Bar Association, contains helpful information. See Organization and Administration of Bar Association Libraries. (1930.) 59 LAW LIB. JOUR, 142.