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In Memory of the Reverend Hugh B. MacMahon, S.J.

Marquette University

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IN MEMORY OF THE REVEREND HUGH B. MACMAHON, S.J.

IN 1916 there came to the Marquette University Law School as regent the Reverend Hugh B. MacMahon, S.J. In 1916 was published the first issue of the MARQUETTE LAW REVIEW. There was a proximate causal relationship between those two events.

Father MacMahon's name did not appear on the editorial masthead of that first issue, nor has it appeared there since. It may well be that his name has not hitherto been mentioned in the Review, for his work was done quietly—without fanfare.

Father MacMahon wished it so. His lack of ostentation was only one of the qualities which endeared him to thousands, and which cause his memory to hover like a continuing benediction over the Law School.

Death came to Father MacMahon early on the morning of June 16, 1939, after months of suffering through which he fought valiantly against an illness which slowly undermined his strength. To those who worked with him it often became obvious that he was suffering severe physical pain, yet no word of complaint ever escaped his lips. Indeed, the slightest inquiry as to the state of his health invariably would meet with a response which deftly shifted the conversation to other topics.

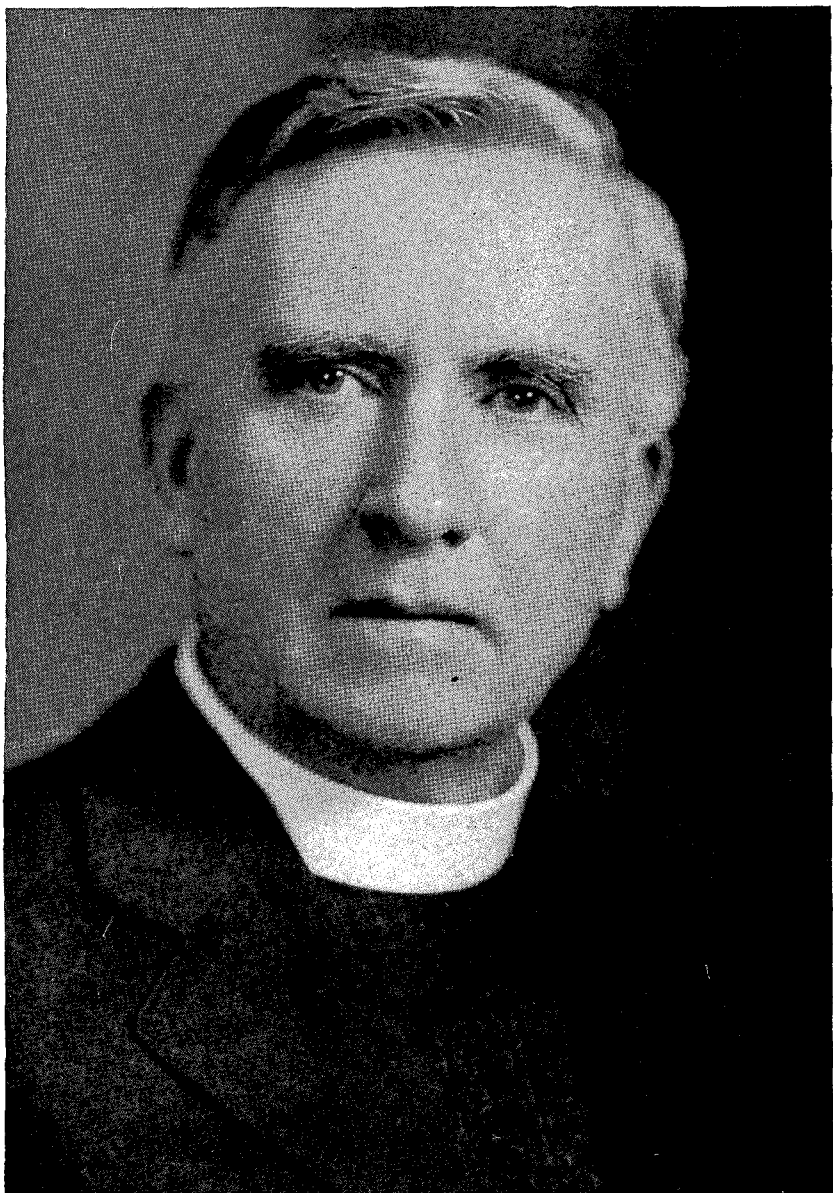
Until a few weeks before his death Father MacMahon came daily to his office in the Law School which for twenty-three years was his life. He worked constantly and effectively for the elevation of the school's standards. He was the loyal friend of every student who attended the Law School during his regency. Undoubtedly his keenest joy in life was manifested whenever a graduate of the Law School won some signal success.

If a tangible monument were needed to preserve the memory of "Father Mac," as he was affectionately known to thousands, it exists in the fine building which is the home of the Marquette Law School. Father MacMahon planned it and watched over its construction with such solicitude that it was said he placed every brick which went into the building.

Father MacMahon was 75 years old. He was born in St. Louis and had received from St. Louis University the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts. He had been a member of the Society of Jesus since Aug. 6, 1884, and was ordained to the priesthood by James Cardinal Gibbons at Woodstock, Md., in June, 1899. Before coming to Marquette Father MacMahon had taught at St. Ignatius College, Chicago, at the University of Detroit and at St. Louis University. At the Marquette University Law School he had for many years taught courses in Roman Law, Natural Law and Jurisprudence, and Legal Ethics.

An appreciation of the widespread influence for good which Father MacMahon exerted upon the legal profession in Wisconsin was voiced thus by Ralph Hoyt, president of the Milwaukee Bar Association:

"To the Milwaukee Bar Association and to hundreds of lawyers who came under Father MacMahon's influence at the Marquette University Law School, his passing means a very great loss. He was one of those men whose influence for good and for progress the community accepts unthinkingly but whose death makes us realize how fortunate we were to have had him among us."



THE REVEREND HUGH B. MACMAHON, S.J.

