

and briefs, together with the opinions, furnish the reporter with sufficient material, and he no longer hears the oral arguments.

Perhaps a more pronounced change in the period considered is that which has resulted from the absorption of the interest and energies of the bar in work outside of litigation. It is not clear to us yet just how much change this has produced. A large portion of the attorneys are now officers of the courts only in legal theory or fiction. Litigation is foreign to the work of many, and for many others who do appear in court, it is an interruption of regular labors. This is especially true of lawyers from Baltimore City, from which jurisdiction, as has been said, the larger part of the business of the court comes. And it has had its effect on the work of the judges. There are still lawyers who present cases carefully prepared and stated, with expert skill, not only older members of the bar, but young ones as well, especially a few recently graduated from high-grade law-schools. It is hardly believable that there could ever have been better and more helpful work at the bar than these lawyers do. But a considerable number who bring cases before the court seem unable to spare time sufficient for full study and preparation, and some, even able and otherwise experienced lawyers, display a lack of skill in the work. The inevitable consequence has been a shifting of some of the function of counsel to the judges; instead of having all the material for decision laid before them, the judges have now more and more original exploration of facts and au-