

THE FREEMASON.

The Organ of the Craft, a Weekly Record of Progress in
FREEMASONRY, LITERATURE, SCIENCE AND ART

REPORTS OF THE GRAND LODGES ARE PUBLISHED WITH THE SPECIAL SANCTION OF
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, THE M.W. GRAND MASTER OF ENGLAND; HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ABERCORN, M.W. GRAND MASTER OF IRELAND;
RIGHT HON. LORD SALTOUN, M.W. GRAND MASTER OF SCOTLAND; AND THE GRAND MASTERS
OF MANY FOREIGN GRAND LODGES.

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APPROACHING FESTIVAL OF THE ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

We are now so far advanced in the New Year as to be within measurable distance of the earliest of our three great Anniversary Festivals—that of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, which will be celebrated under the auspices of the Right Hon. Lord ADDINGTON, Prov. G. Master of Buckinghamshire, on Tuesday, the 27th February. We took occasion to refer to the event in one of our December issues and are pleased to be able to report that the prospects of a successful result which then appeared to be so encouraging are still favourable, Bro. JAMES TERRY having met with more than his usual good fortune in enlisting the services of ladies and brethren as Stewards. Then, if we remember rightly, the names had been received of some 250 brethren and others who were prepared to do all in their power to promote the success of the Anniversary to which we are so anxiously, and at the same time so hopefully looking forward. In the interval that has since elapsed, this number has been so considerably augmented that, notwithstanding the intervention of the Christmas holidays, the Board already musters some 320 members, with every likelihood of still further accessions of strength between now and the penultimate day of February. Indeed, so satisfactory has been the result of Bro. TERRY'S canvass for Stewards that we believe we are correct in stating the number already enrolled is some 80 in excess of the number at the corresponding period of last year. This is good news, to which we are inclined to attach no little importance, owing to the circumstances in which the country is placed as compared with what they were 12 months ago. Then, no doubt, grave anxieties existed as to the maintenance of friendly relations with the Transvaal; now, and for three months past, a state of war has prevailed, not only between this country and the Transvaal, but also between us and the Transvaal in offensive and defensive alliance with the Orange Free State. Then there were only the regular institutions appealing for support which depend for their maintenance wholly or chiefly on the contributions of the benevolent; now, in addition to these, are the numerous funds which are being raised for the equipment of the Yeomanry and Volunteers, and for the relief of the sufferers by the war, and our lodges and the brethren individually have borne their part generously as usual

in helping these Funds. Hence we must look to a multitude of Stewards to render the assistance that is required by our Institutions rather than to the Boards of between 300 and 400 members such as we are familiar with in ordinary years. We trust, therefore, that none will withhold their services on this occasion because the Board of Stewards for the February celebration is already, numerically, somewhat stronger than usual.

As for the claims of the Benevolent Institution, let it suffice if we state that at the annual general meeting of Governors and Subscribers in May last, it was determined that provision should be made for 477 annuitants, namely, 207 brethren at £40 a year each; 248 widows at £32 each; and 22 widows in receipt of half their late husbands' annuities, that is to say, £20 per annum; the total sum required to meet these obligations being £16,636. To this must be added the amount required for the expenses of Management and the Maintenance of the Asylum at Croydon, or about £3000, placing the total expenditure for the year at—in round figures—about £19,500. The "per Contra" in the shape of assured income, consisting of the dividends in respect of the invested capital and the annual grants by Grand Lodge and Supreme Grand Chapter somewhat slightly exceed £6000, so that the deficiency to be made good as far as possible by the donations and subscriptions which will be forthcoming next month, if we allow a margin for unforeseen contingencies, should not fall very far short of £14,000. It is a large sum, no doubt, but we are not without hopes that it will be forthcoming if the lodges and brethren continue, as they have done till now, to volunteer their help towards raising it. And if an additional incentive to exertion is needed by those who intend acting as Stewards, it will no doubt be found in the large number of brethren and widows who are candidates for the benefits of the Institution. Notwithstanding the additional annuities—five on the Male and three on the Widows' Fund—that were created at the annual meeting in May, 1899, there remained, when the elections were over, between 60 and 70 Old People who had no option left them but to await with such calmness as they might be able to command, the chance of their being fortunate at the next or some future ballot. This number has since been increased by the acceptance of over 40 petitions from widows and brethren, whose names have been entered on the lists for the annual meeting in May next, while the proportion of vacancies to candidates is still, as it has been for many years, most unfavourable to the latter. It is to be regretted that a means cannot be found of placing them more nearly on a level, but as this cannot be done without making such an addition to the annual charge for annuities as the Committee of Management would justly decline to sanction, we can do no more than exhort the Stewards to infuse, if possible, a little more zeal and earnestness into their canvass, so that, if the fates are propitious, a further slight reduction may be made in the lists of candidates. Their first care, however, must be to obtain the £14,000 that is needed for the present establishment, and this, as we have said, we are not without hope they will be able to accomplish.

INITIATIONS AT LODGE CONSECRATIONS

With reference to the letter we published last week from Bro. J. T. LAST, P. Prov. G. Registrar West Yorkshire, in which he mentions the initiation of three candidates at the consecration of the United Pilgrims Lodge, No. 745—now No. 507—on the 14th March, 1845, we observe that at or about that time,

and for many years previously, the practice appears to have been by no means uncommon. During the 18th century the custom would seem to have been for a "dispensation" to be granted for a certain number of days to the principal founder or founders of the proposed new lodge. Under this "dispensation" meetings were held, at which candidates were initiated, and after this the lodge was constituted and set about the discharge of its appointed duties as a regular warranted lodge. Such an instance of a "dispensation" having been granted to a Bro. Robt. Lochhead by the "Ancient" Grand Lodge "for the space of 30 days," on the 2nd March, 1763, will be found under No. 111, at page 22 of Bro. R. F. GOULD'S "Atholl" Lodges, while another instance is furnished by the Domestic Lodge, No. 177, as recorded in the earlier pages of the history compiled by Bro. G. BLIZARD ABBOTT for the centenary festival, on the 12th February, 1886; several meetings having been held under the dispensation granted to Bro. Charles Fenwick on the 21st December, 1785, while the lodge was constituted as No. 234 on the 7th February, 1786.

As regards the practice in vogue at the date of Bro. LAST'S letter, and earlier, he will find recorded in Bro. G. BLIZARD ABBOTT'S "History of Freemasonry in Hertfordshire" as many as seven cases of candidates being initiated on the days on which their respective lodges were consecrated, the earliest case being that of the Hertford Lodge, No. 403, which was consecrated at the Salisbury Arms, Hertford, on the 8th September, 1829. On this occasion, as soon as Bro. Francis Crew had been installed as the first W. Master, and had appointed and invested his officers, we read that "fifteen gentlemen," including Mr. William Medland, solicitor—who, earlier in the meeting, had been elected Treasurer, "subject to his acceptance by the lodge as an initiate"—"were severally balloted for, elected, and initiated in groups or batches, with intervals between for the necessary rest and refreshment." We are further told that "the several candidates having been initiated, all the members of the lodge being present, the newly-installed Master was proclaimed and received the usual salutation," while "afterwards the same mark of respect was paid to the officers of the lodge."

The Watford Lodge, No. 404, was consecrated on Friday, the 13th November, 1829, when, after the W.M. had been installed and the officers appointed, "eleven candidates were balloted for and initiated, the requisite dispensation for making so large a number having previously been obtained from the Prov. G. Master—Bro. Geo. W. Harvey. In this case, after the initiations, "the lodge was closed and adjourned till the following Tuesday"—the 17th of the month—when "five more candidates were initiated," and the lodge was "again closed and adjourned till the following Friday"—the 20th November—when four additional candidates were initiated, and "the labours of the lodge having been at length completed, the first regular meeting, after having extended over a whole week, was brought to a conclusion."

At the consecration of the Stortford Lodge, No. 409, on the 27th December, 1831, Paul Cheffins, Parish Clerk, and Mr. James Goodwin, landlord of the Crown Inn, where the meeting was held, were severally balloted for and initiated, the former as a serving brother, and by dispensation from the Marquis of Salisbury, Prov. G. Master, without the usual fee. The Cecil Lodge, No. 449, was consecrated on the 19th May, 1838, among those present on the occasion being the Marquis of Salisbury, Prov. G. Master, and when Bro. W. Lloyd Thomas had been installed as W.M., and the Wardens designate invested, seven gentlemen were balloted for and elected, and of these six were there and then initiated, of whom one was elected Treasurer of the lodge, and three others appointed to minor offices. The Berkhamstead Lodge, No. 504, was consecrated on the 1st January, 1845, by Bro. W. Stuart, Prov. G. Master, and when Bro. the Rev. S. Lea Wilson had been installed as W.M., and the Wardens invested, six candidates, including Thomas Thomas, by dispensation as a serving brother, were initiated.

The five lodges referred to in the preceding remarks are the senior lodges in the Province of Hertfordshire, but in addition may be cited the cases of the Salisbury Lodge, No. 435, which now meets in the London district, but was originally a Hertfordshire Lodge, and the St. Alban's Lodge, which has been extinct

for the greater part of the last half century. Both these lodges were consecrated in the presence of the Marquis of Salisbury, Prov. G. Master, the former as No. 630, at the Falcon Inn, Waltham Cross, on the 8th June, 1836, and the latter as No. 678, at the Town Hall, St. Alban's, on the 26th July, 1839, and on both occasions a number of candidates were balloted for and initiated, one of the four thus initiated in the Salisbury, being subsequently appointed to the office of Chaplain. No doubt other cases might be cited, but these seven from the single Province of Hertfordshire, and spread over a period of 16 years, may be taken as evidence that the practice was a recognised one.

GRAND LODGE CALENDAR.

The "Freemasons' Calendar and Pocket Book for the year 1900" is a most welcome addition to the new Masonic publications to commence the New Year with, and all the more, because it is so complete and trustworthy; besides being in such a handy form for consultation and general reference.

Each successive issue witnesses an increase in size (or rather *thickness*), and as respects arrangement and particulars, it seems unlikely there will be any more changes or additions now as the Calendar contains all the subjects about which information is needed, or can reasonably be expected in such a work. Of late years it has been much improved, the additional matter being both useful and valuable. The price continues as before, viz., *two shillings* per copy, it is printed and published by Bro. George Kenning, as usual, may be ordered of any bookseller, and is sold for the *benefit of the Charity Fund*."

The Calendar for 1899 ended with No. 2735 (*i.e.*, in December, 1898), thus leaving 2290 lodges on the roll, after allowing for removals, &c., since 1863. The present issue concludes with No. 2793; the actual number on the Register being 2348, or an increase of 58. This increase, however, is more apparent than real, as some 20 lodges were erased by vote of the Grand Lodge held December 6th, 1899, in consequence of their joining the lately formed Grand Lodge of New Zealand, having ceased to work, or from other causes requiring their removal, so that the strength of the Grand Lodge at the end of December is practically 2330, the largest number ever attained, notwithstanding the establishment of so many Grand Lodges since the present enumeration began in 1863. It is a remarkable fact that the Grand Lodge of England continues to progress, no matter what adverse influences may affect its Register, and it is still the largest in the world as to the number of lodges and members, though as respects the latter, undoubtedly the Grand Lodge of New York runs it very close indeed, and possibly there is not much difference between them, as in the United States brethren are not permitted to belong to more than one lodge at a time.

The 2348 are thus distributed: *Metropolis*, 488; *Country*, 1354; and *Colonial and Foreign*, 506. The third division has not increased at all, after deducting the removals already noted. London has added 20 to its Register during 1899, and the provinces nearly as many. Quite a number of the latter have increased one each, viz., Berks, Bucks, Cheshire, Cornwall, Cumberland and Westmorland, Devonshire, Herts, Kent, West Lancs, Lincoln, Northumberland, Stafford, Sussex, and West Yorks. Surrey has advanced from 42 to 45, and Essex from 41 to 45.

The largest Provincial Grand Lodge is West Lancs, with 122, followed by East Lancs, with 113, West Yorks 82, Kent 65, Devon 59, and Cheshire 53. It will be seen that in the County of Lancaster there are 235 lodges, being very much more than many Grand Lodges have on their roll.

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter has 836 on the Register, showing only the insignificant increase of five chapters, which are distributed by 183 being in London, 530 in the country, and 123 abroad. According to Bro. C. L. Mason, in his Paper read recently before the members of the Prov. G. Chap. of West Yorkshire, the percentage of increase of Royal Arch companions, 1890 to 1898, "was hardly appreciable," and I do not think that things are any better now in that respect. It appears to me that, "all things being equal," Master Masons should not rest contented until they have obtained the Royal Arch, as the complement of the Third Degree; but, evidently, by far the greater number of members remain satisfied with an incomplete knowledge of the recognised English Rite of Freemasonry.

The information supplied as to the Grand Lodges of Ireland, Scotland, and many others, cannot fail to be of advantage, and add much to the interest and general utility of the Calendar, which editorially reflects great credit on the Grand Secretary; and his efficient staff to whom that duty is mainly entrusted.

W. J. HUGHAN.

Mark Masonry.

Industry Lodge, No. 293.

The annual meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Gateshead, on Tuesday, the 2nd inst., when there was an average attendance of members.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read, and the Treasurer's balance sheet adopted, Bro. W. J. Jobson, S.W., was duly installed as W.M. by Bro. H. Jackson, the retiring Master. The officers were invested as follows: Bros. H. Jackson, I.P.M.; M. C. A. Holzappel, S.W.; T. Douglass, J.W.; J. Armstrong, M.O.; C. W. Hodgson, S.O.; J. B. McKenzie, J.O.; T. R. Jobson, P.M.; Treas.; Rev. W. Bowker, Chap.; W. E. Peacock, R. of M.; H. H. Pitt, Sec.; R. Laverick, S.D.; C. H. Keay, J.D.; R. Ferry, Org.; T. H. Armstrong, I.G.; S. Brown and J. Carr, Stwds.; and J. Curry, Tyler.

After the lodge was closed, the brethren adjourned to the refreshment room for the annual dinner, over which the W.M. presided.

Science, Art, and the Drama.

ECONOMY, THE GRAND LAW OF NATURE.

(Continued).

In continuing our subject from last week, let us consider how this grand law of the universe has served as a rule and guide to man, not only with regard to himself in his physical, but, also in his mental capacity. As to his body he soon, even from his earliest years, learns how necessary it is for him if he would wish to enjoy perfect health that he should use wisely the many bounteous blessings of the senses in their various forms, which have been freely bestowed by his beneficent Creator. He is taught not to tax to their fullest extent his bodily powers, but to keep in reserve a store of vitality, upon which he may be able to call when assailed by sickness, accident, or any unforeseen disaster. Thus it happens, when reduced by illness almost to the ebb of life, the wisdom of economy is evident. Then it is that Nature kindly shows how grateful she is to those who have treated her with filial reverence; the loving mother, when called upon, comes to aid, and by the rallying powers which have been stored up in the past she is enabled to ward off not only present danger, but ensure against renewed attacks in the future. As in the body, so equally in the mind, should there be a wise observance of this beneficent law of Economy. Although, of course, by being exercised, the powers of the intellect become fully developed, and attain their due measure of efficiency, yet, the striving to attain to perfection must be restrained within prudent limits. How many lamentable instances there have been where the brilliant scholar, at the very acme of success, has suddenly succumbed, and been hurled from the pinnacle of greatness, never able to recover, because not only has the brain been worked to the utmost of its resources, leaving nothing stored up for the future, but it has been heavily discounted. In a case like this the body becomes affected similarly to the mind, they act and re-act upon each other, and when severe illness supervenes, recovery is practically hopeless; the law of Economy has been disregarded, nothing is in reserve, nothing stored up for a pressing emergency. We have in our recollection a notable example of what we have adduced. Many years ago, a young man at Cambridge, of a most amiable disposition, the pride of his college and delight of his relations and friends, had achieved the object of his ambition, he had won the coveted blue ribbon of the University—the Senior Wranglership. He had gained the prize, but it was, alas, soon evident at a most terrible cost. Poor suffering Nature, afflicted so distressingly both in body and mind, could no longer endure the strain upon her. She suddenly collapsed. This "young man of the year," of whom a brilliant future was predicted, without any warning became a poor harmless idiot, incapable of sane reason in the least degree. A terrible lesson this to all future students, not to forget that Nature, while she is, and can be, a loving mother, is capable of becoming, when deeply wronged, a Nemesis to prove that, injured beyond all hope of forgiveness, she can become an instrument of righteous vengeance.

THE NEW GALLERY, REGENT STREET.

EXHIBITION OF FLEMISH PICTURES, INCLUDING A SELECTION FROM THE WORKS OF SIR PETER PAUL RUBENS.

[First Notice.]

Perhaps one of the most interesting exhibitions of Art, at present, is to be seen at the New Gallery, Regent-street. It consists of a choice loan collection of the master pieces of Flemish Art, including a selection from the works of Sir Peter Paul Rubens. There are, also, a few pictures on loan of the British School. A few preparatory notes on early art in the Netherlands may throw light on the subject under our consideration. In the Low Countries, or in the present Kingdoms of the Netherlands, Holland, and Belgium, Art in 7th and 8th centuries was practised with great success in several leading monasteries, such as those at Köln (Cologne), Tournay, Ghent, &c., which were veritable centres of culture and civilization. There are two MS. Gospel Books of 7th century, of vellum, adorned with illuminations and miniatures, which show a considerable amount of artistic skill, which are preserved in the Church of Maaseyck. They were executed by two sainted sisters, Harlindis and Reylandis, abbesses of Aldeneyck. It was, however, Charles the Great who gave the first impulse to Art. He gathered about him artists from Constantinople, Italy, and England, to adorn his palaces at Nijmegen and at Aachen (Aix la Chapelle), established a School of Art, which was attached to his court, and in 807 not only issued a decree that all churches should be adorned with paintings, but appointed inspectors to see that his orders were carried out. The emperors Otho 2nd and Otho 3rd (972-1002) employed at their court several Byzantine artists; all their works have disappeared, but a strong Byzantine influence is evident in many works of art which have escaped destruction, such, for instance, as the enamelled plaques on the shrine of St. Mark, at Huy, and the Gospels of Stavelot, now in the Royal Library at Brussels. A large number of other illuminated MSS., enable us to trace the gradual development of local pictorial art; one good example, a Bible in two large folio volumes, written, illustrated, and adorned with miniatures, bound by two monks of the Abbey of Stavelot, Goderan, and Ernest. It occupied their working hours during four years, and was completed in 1097. It is now in the British Museum. Up to the end of the 12th century Art in the Low Countries was almost entirely under the control of the monastic orders. The abbays, and even many of the priories, had around them a large number of dependents, who worked for, and under the direction of, the monks, who had always two schools; one in which they trained their own novices in the Arts and Sciences, the other in which they instructed their dependents in every craft. There is documentary evidence to show that these dependents, living under the protection of the abbot, were to be counted by hundreds, and sometimes even by thousands. They formed communities, working not only for the monks, but also, under strict regulations, for outsiders.

SAVOY THEATRE.

We attended a matinée at the above theatre. A new comic opera was performed, entitled, "The Rose of Persia." The book is by Capt. Basil Hood, the music being composed by Bro. Sir Arthur Sullivan. The story is ingenious and has a great share of originality. In one part, however, we

have a distinct reminder of the introduction of the Arabian Nights—the leading idea, however, being on different lines. The lyrics are graceful and telling, they flow easily, the dialogue is smart and witty. Some of it is worth repeating. *Sunbeam*: "When I married your money, I meant to be in the best society, one day." *Hassan*: "We were in it, one day. One day was enough for me." *Sun*: "The ball was at our feet. I shall never forget that." *Has*: "The ball was at our house, I shall never forget that." Upper classes? I know 'em, however much they pretend not to know me. They took everything I gave them, and when there was nothing else for them to take, they took me for one of the waiters." *Abdallah*: "Five and twenty widows! Unhappy lot!" *Sun*: "A lot—but not unhappy." There is a song for Hassan and chorus "When my father sent me to Ispahan," it is very amusing, here are two of the lines—

"A man may be nothing at all at home,
But something in the City!"

As is evident, Capt. Hood is apt at repartee. *Yusuf*: "I've love tales of kisses and quarrels, queer mixture of honey and gall, and some of those stories have morals, and others no morals at all." *Hassan*: "Please, remember the ladies." *Yus*: "I have drawing room tales, you will greet them as fit for your sister or aunt." *Has*: "That's better." *Yus*: "I have stories so short you'll repeat them; and others so broad that you can't!" There is an amusing quartett, *re* "truth and the well," in which it is suggested "We'll tell the truth diluted! Just a little taradiddle-iddle-id diluted!" There is a capital society song by the Sultan, with chorus. Taken as a whole, the libretto is excellent. With regard to the music, we think it is in Sir Arthur's best style; whilst it is melodious in the highest degree; some of the phrasing is strikingly original. There is a brilliant song for Yusuf and chorus—"I care not if the cup I hold;" a tuneful graceful trio, with dance and chorus, "Musical Maidens are we (we are three);" an octett—the expression varied in the three lines—"But what will become of us?" *Has*: "No, what will become of me?" *Others*: "No, what would become of them?" is strikingly appropriate; a lively quartett and Dervish dance; a charming song (Act 2), "Oh, what is love?" the concluding portion with Yusuf is beautifully harmonised. There is also a septett, a fine piece of musical writing. A song by Yusuf, "Our tale is told," and the concluding song by Hassan, "There was once a small Street Arab." "The Rose of Persia" will fully sustain Sir Arthur's reputation. The interpretation of this bright clever work is in competent skilful hands. Mr. Walter Passmore, in the role of Hassan, does full justice to his part; whilst amusing, he is not vulgar. We did not see Miss Isabel Jay in the part of the Sultana Zubeydeh (Rose in Bloom), owing to her indisposition it was undertaken by Miss Gertrude Jerrard, who seemed to be fully proficient. The Misses Jessie Rose, Louie Pounds, and Emmie Owen acquitted themselves most satisfactorily as the favourite slaves; Miss Rosina Brandram as "Dancing Sunbeam" has a part especially suited to her style; Mr. Robert Evett, Mr. H. A. Lytton, and Mr. Geo. Ridgwell ably carried out the parts of Yusuf, the Sultan, and Abdallah (a priest). We trust the opera will have the success it so well merits.

GENERAL NOTES.

As an addendum to our article on "The New Year—some of its ancient gifts," we may notice, as a curious fact, the divergence of opinion in our modern times as to the observance, or non-observance, of certain festal days and times. As an illustration we may mention that in France, especially in Paris, Christmas Day (Jour de Noel), is not observed as a day of rejoicing in the manner so general with us. The great day with the French is New Year's Day (Jour de l'An), better known as "Le Four des Etrennes." On that day, so long looked forward to by all grades of people, from the highest to the lowest, mutual visits are interchanged between relations and friends, and it is an imperative, though unwritten, law, that each one should receive a present, however poor and insignificant it may be, as a token of amity and good will. A very delightful sentiment, truly characteristic of our light-hearted neighbours. In the higher grades of Society, with the gentlemen who pay these morning calls, evening dress is *de rigueur*. Sweetmeat boxes, "Bonbonnières" for the ladies and children, are very general presents, there are, however, many others such as flowers, articles of jewellery, lace, dress, &c., according to the taste of the donors and recipients. It is a *sine qua non* that something should be given. With us, in Great Britain, New Year's Day is observed by the Scotch instead of Christmas Day, for religious reasons we cannot here enter into.

* * * *

Armoured Glass.—Glass plates cast with wire gauze, or rather mesh, enclosed in its substance, submitted to tests at the Chemnitz Technical Institute and the Vienna Technological Museum, were found to possess great consistency as well as resistance to pressure, shock, and the effects of heat. While plates of ordinary glass frequently broke under the sudden application of pressure, the strengthened glass was only cracked, and the cracks caused by rapid changes of temperature permitted neither damp nor flame to pass. It has already been proposed to use the strengthened glass for protecting water-gauge tubes; and the above named qualities would seem to indicate its use for the glasses of safety lamps.

* * * *

The exhibition promoted by the artists of the United Kingdom for the benefit of the War Fund, will be opened at the Guildhall Art Gallery on Monday, the 22nd inst., by her Royal Highness Princess Louise. It is fully anticipated that the fund, of which the Queen is the patron, Sir Edwd. Poynter the President, and Sir Alma Tadema the chairman, will be a large one, as it is intended that the proceeds of the exhibition and the sale of the works of art shall represent the bounty of the world of art. Some notable names appear upon the committee, namely, Mr. Frank Dicksee (vice-chairman), and Messrs. Brock, Crofts, Fildes, Stanhope Forbes, Gregory, Herkomer, Holman Hunt, T. G. Jackson, Oules, Sargent, Hamo Thornycroft, and Waterlow; while the hon. sec. is Mr. M. H. Spielmann. The opening ceremony will take place at three p.m.

* * * *

Mrs. Patrick Campbell has postponed her opening date at the Royalty Theatre to Saturday, the 27th inst. On the opening night, in addition to "The Canary" and the Sacrament of Judas," Mrs. Patrick Campbell will recite a new poem entitled "The Women of Britain," written by Mrs. Arthur Harter.

THE YORK GRAND LODGE.—A BRIEF SKETCH

By BRO. WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN, PAST SENIOR GRAND DRAGON OF ENGLAND, &C., &C.

The following paper which was read before the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2076, on the 5th January last, appears in advance in our columns with the kind permission of the writer, Bro. Hughan, and of the editor of "Ars Quatuor Coronatorum."

York is the Mecca of English Freemasonry, just as Kilwinning has long been for the Scottish Craft. Around these two Masonic centres have crystalized some extraordinary and absurd legends and fancies, which have proved a source of weakness and difficulty to the Fraternity. Not all the labours of trusted historians have yet secured their rejection in certain quarters, for some prominent Brethren still continue to promulgate erroneous statements thereon that have been refuted over and over again.

The claim that the "Ancients" or "Atholl Masons" of London were really York Masons—the *Ancient York Masons* of the U.S.A.—and the belief that Kilwinning was the source of the "High Degrees" of last century, have their votaries even now, and apparently the popular notion that there is not lacking evidence in favour of such views, is not easy of confutation, seeing it depends more on sentiment than fact for its survival.

It seems quite clear that from a very early date, say from the 14th century (for argument's sake), it was the custom of the brethren who assembled in Lodges to admit Initiates in a formal manner, and the "Old Charges" were read to them to make their Masonic reception complete. As the speculative element increased and Lodges were formed, or became mainly or wholly free from an operative basis, it is possible that these speculatives did not see the necessity for the recital of the "Old Charges," and thus in time ceased to give these Rolls the prominence they had, or continued to have, under the operative regime.

The silence as to this portion of the reception, or "Acception," uniformly observed by the secretaries of the old Lodge of York may be thus explained, as it was wholly speculative in character. On the other hand, the fact that six of these Rolls were scheduled as belonging to the "Grand Lodge of all England at York," on the 15th September, 1779, tends to prove that though probably superannuated documents at that period, they were veritable relics of antiquity bequeathed to them by their Masonic forbears.

The "Sloane MS. No. 3848," finished by Sankey on the 16th October, 1646, was likely enough used at the Initiation of Elias Ashmole on that day at Warrington, and we know that the "Orders to be observed by the Company and Fellowship of Free Masons at a Lodge held at Alnwick, September 29th, 1701," provided that "Noe Mason shall take any apprentice [but he must] Enter him and give him his Charge within one whole year after."

Still earlier are the references to the MS. Constitutions in the records of the Masons' Company, London,¹ though unfortunately the document is missing, and in the old "Lodge of Industry," Gateshead, the minutes afford abundant testimony to the custom of the "Old Charges" being read to the neophytes, even far on in the 18th century. The endorsement on the "Scarborough MS." of 1705 may be taken as another intimation of the same character, and also a register on one of the York MSS.²

Of the five (out of six) Scrolls still happily preserved at York, which were in the schedule of 1779, I fear but three can possibly be claimed as used by the members of the old Lodge so long held in that city, and even then there is a lack of evidence as to the point. No. 1 of the Old Charges (D3, of early 17th century) was, as endorsed

"Found in Pontefract Castle at the Demolishing, and given to the Lodge by Francis Drake, 1732."

No. 3, of A.D. 1630, has long been lost, and the celebrated No. 4 (E9 of 1693) bears the endorsement

"Brother Geo. Walker, of Wetherby, To the Grand Lodge of York, 1777."

So that there are only Nos. 2 (of 1704) and 5 and 6 of late 17th century to be accounted for, and which may be assumed to have been used by the old Lodge, though the scribes preserve a sphinx-like silence thereon. In the "Fabric Rolls of York Minster" (Durham, 1859, p. 181), mention is made of the Lodge, wherein the Masons were "atte youre werke atte ye son risyng," according to the rules of 1370, fixed by "ye Chapitre of ye Kirk of Saint Petyr," and as carried out by the "Maistryr Masoun." So that according to a favourite Scottish method of Masonic chronology, the Lodge of York may date back to A.D. 1370, though the minutes preserved do not commence until the early part of the last century.

There are no other relics extant until about three hundred years later than the *Ordinacio Cementariorum* aforesaid,³ the earliest being the old gauge of 1663 having the names of "William Baron, 1663, of Yorke, John Drake, John Barran" thereon.

It has been taken for granted by some brethren that the "York MS. No. 4," of A.D. 1693, which has the following statement, following the Scroll proper, signed by Mark Kypling

"The names of the Lodg	
William Simpson	Christopher Thompson
Anthony Horsman	Christopher Gill
	Mr Isaac Brent, Lodge Ward,"

refers to the old York Lodge, but, as already mentioned, its custodian prior to 1777 is unknown, and so the Lodge remains unidentified. It is a pity such is the case, for although the text is not of any special value, the Roll is remarkable for a transcriber's error, which has caused quite a needless amount of discussion as to the admission of females into Masonic Lodges at that period, some even accepting the clause in question as proof of such a custom, as I originally was inclined to do.⁴

"The one of the elders taking the Booke, and that hee or shee that is to bee made Mason shall lay their hands thereon and the charge shall be given."

Undoubtedly the word *shee* is a stranger in all the scores of Rolls known, and is a mistake for *they*. The Latin clause reads *ille vel illi, not illa*.

The position enjoyed for so long by York as the City where the first Assembly of the Craft was held in Prince Edwin's day (by Charter of King Athelstan), was understood for many years to include a still greater compliment to that old Masonic centre, by all these assemblies being held therein for many years subsequently, but this is manifestly an error. There is an extract from the "ancient records of the fraternity," which is cited by Hargrove, which favours York as the City for the annual assemblies, but it is not confirmed by any other MS., and the

source of his information is not known. He, however, from the same Scroll gives another excerpt that the said Charter empowered him "to hold every yeare an assembly where he would, within the Realm of England," which accords with all the York MSS. preserved, and proves that the clause is incorrect as to the word *there*, unless it is deemed to refer to a private Lodge only.

"And he held an Assembly at York, and made Masons, and gave them their charges, and taught them the manners of Masons, and commanded that rule to be holden ever after; and gave them a Charter and Commission to meet annually in communicaytion *there*."⁵

The Historian of York, Francis Drake, F.R.S., when J.G.W. of the York Grand Lodge, on December 27th, 1726, in his Speech "Delivered to the Worshipful and Ancient Society" thus refers to the matter, but drops *Prince Edwin* for

"*Edwin*, the first Christian King of the Northumbers, about the six hundredth year after *Christ*, and who laid the Foundation of our Cathedral, sat as Grand Master. This is sufficient to make us dispute the superiority with the Lodges at London. But as nought of that kind ought to be amongst so amicable a Fraternity, we are content they enjoy the Title of Grand Master of England; but the *Totius Anglice* we claim as an undoubted Right."⁶

The same Brother also states that "we can boast that the first Grand Lodge ever held in England, was held in this City" (York). I need not stay to point out that these terms *Grand Lodge* and *Grand Master* are not met with before early in the 18th century.

The Schedule of 1779 also contains a register of the following important Scrolls, besides other relics and documents of considerable value and importance.

"No. 7.—Another parchment Roll containing the Manual Subscriptions, &c., of persons made Masons in the Grand Lodge. It begins March 19th, 1712, and ends with the minutes of a Lodge 4th May, 1730."

"No. 8.—A skin of Parchment containing old Rules of the Grand Lodge, 1725."

"No. 9.—A little narrow slip of Parchment containing 'List of M.-M's.'"

"A narrow folio manuscript Book beginning 7th March, 1705-6, containing sundry accounts and minutes relative to the Grand Lodge."

The most important of the foregoing has long been missing. I refer to the MS. Minute Book from 1705-6. This is much to be regretted and has long been deplored by Masonic students. In a letter, still extant, by Bro. Jacob Bussey, G. Sec., (York), to Bro. B. Bradley, (Lodge of Antiquity, London), and dated 29th August, 1778, that official states

"In compliance with your request to be satisfied of the existence of a Grand Lodge at York previous to the establishment of that at London in 1717. I have inspected an Original Minute Book of this Grand Lodge beginning at 1705 and ending in 1734 from which I have extracted the names of the Grand Masters during that period."

Bro. Bussey was not accurate in several of his statements, but the epistle is useful as respects the admission that the Minute Book of 1705 was then in existence. He also notes the fact that the Lodge was

"holden once (in 1713) out of York, viz., at Bradford in Yorkshire, when 18 Gentlemen of the first families in that neighbourhood were made Masons."

He does not mention the Lodge held at Scarborough, (which is singular) in 1705, so it might have met prior to the date of the first minute in that Book, though in the same year. The endorsement on the Scarborough Roll of the "Old Charges" is as follows, and possibly refers to a meeting which assembled under the auspices of the York Lodge.⁴

"Mrdum, That Att A private Lodge held att Scarborough in the County of York, the tenth day of July, 1705, before William Thompson, Esqr., Pr'sident of the said Lodge, & severall other brethren free Masons, the severall p'sons whose names are herevnto subscribed were then admitted into the said fraterntiy.

Ed: Thompson
Jo: Tempest
Robt: Johnson
Tho: Lister
Samuel W. Buck
Richard Hudson."

We are on firm ground with the Parchment Roll of Minutes before us of 1712-1730, which though not the oldest Records of the kind in this Country, are, in not a few respects the most important preserved of early 18th century. They not only concern an old Lodge wholly speculative in character, but inform us that this same Masonic Organization blossomed into a Grand Lodge so early as 1725, if not before. For the complete Roll see Appendix A to this paper, which has been reproduced from a copy made for me by the lamented Brother William Cowling, so long the beloved Custodian of the York MSS. &c., of the extinct Grand Lodge.

It will be noted that from the first (dated March 19th, 1712) to the end, the major portion of the minutes are described as those of *private* Lodges, a few being termed "General Lodges." My opinion is that there are reasons to believe that another Minute Book was kept for the ordinary monthly meetings, which has not been preserved, but even with this Scroll to peruse, we can form a vivid and pretty accurate notion of the doings of the Craft in the Northern City during the eventful period, immediately before and after the establishment of the premier Grand Lodge of England, in London, A.D. 1717. The Ceremony of Initiation (no other is mentioned, presumably because there was none prior to 1717) is aptly described as being

"Admitted and sworne into the Ancient and Hon'ble Society and Fraternity of Free Masons."

Sometimes for a change the "Company of Freemasons" and the "Society of Free and Accepted" Masons are the terms used.

It is most interesting to read that on January 10th, 1723 (N.S.), five Craftsmen "were acknowledged as Brethren of this ancient Society," i.e., elected as joining members; one (or more) was "received, admitted and acknowledged as a member of this Antient and Hon'ble Society" on December 27th, 1725 (two or three meetings taking place on that day); and a more emphatic statement occurs under date February 4th, 1723 (N.S.).

"At the same time and place the two persons whose names are underwritten were upon their examinations received as Masons and as such were accordingly introduced and admitted into this Lodge."

Naturally one would like to know from what Lodges these Brethren hailed, but though that cannot be discovered now, it is most suggestive to possess such records, proving as they do a system of signs and words, or the oft called "*Mason Word*," common to the Fraternity in Great Britain and Ireland at the period under consideration.

The Chief Officer of the Lodge was termed *President*, and there was also a

¹ "Old Charges of British Freemasons," *Hughan*, 1895, p. 98.

² "History of the Worshipful Company of Masons, London," *Conder*, 1894.

³ "Ancient Masonic Rolls of Constitutions," 1894, (M. C. Peck, Hull.)

⁴ "Constitutions of the Freemasons," *Hughan*, 1869, pp. xxiii.-iv.

⁵ "Masonic Sketches and Reprints," *Hughan*, 1871, pp. 36-7.

¹ Bro. Gould's "History of Freemasonry" (chaps. xvi. & xviii.) contains an excellent account, to date, as to Freemasonry in York.

² Reprint of Speech, "Masonic Sketches and Reprints."

³ Gould's "History of Freemasonry," chap. xviii.

⁴ Facsimile of the "Scarborough MS.," *Masonic Reprints*, Lodge No. 2076.]

Deputy President; Brethren who took the Chair temporarily being described as *Masters*, and the remaining principal Officers are noted as *Wardens*. After the Grand Master was chosen and Installed on December 27th, 1725, there is no mention at the ordinary meetings of any presiding officers, which is certainly singular, and possibly may be explained by the Grand Master being unable to attend. Even when Sir William Milner, Bart., and the Right Hon. Lord Irwin were "sworn and admitted" on February 4th and December 13th, 1726, respectively, the presiding officer is not stated.

On July 6th, 1726, William Scourfield "was for ever banished from the Lodge" for presuming "to call a Lodge and make Masons without the consent of the Grand Master or Deputy, and in opposition to the 8th article of the Constitutions." This "Schismatical Lodge" was held on the 24th of the previous month, four other brethren named taking part therein. These were to be expelled at "the next monthly meeting," unless they were duly repentant. The 8th Rule of A.D. 1725, provided that

"Any Brother or Brothers presuming to call a Lodge with a design to make a Mason or Masons, without the Master or Deputy, or one of them deputed, for every such offence shall forfeit the sum of Five Pounds."

There is a long Regulation on the subject of forming Lodges "without the Grand Master's Warrant," in the Book of Constitutions, A.D. 1723 (London), and it also is numbered VIII., but I think it more likely that the Rule quoted was the one by which the Schismatics were judged.¹ The whole of these 19 Rules will be found in the Appendix B.

I do not feel sure as to the reason why some of the newly admitted brethren have their marks attached. It might be that they could not write, but considering the high social position of so many of the members, that is scarcely probable. On the other hand they may have been operative Masons. It is a puzzle any way.

If the Grand Lodge held on "the Festival of St. John the Evangelist," 1725, was the first of its kind at York, it is strange that no reference is made to such an extraordinary event. Drake in his celebrated speech, delivered at the Festival in the following year, does not throw any light on the point, and so it must be left undecided whether the York Masons were the first to follow the example set by the London Brethren in 1717, or the second Grand Lodge was the one formed by the Craft in Ireland. I suggest that our W. Master, Bro. T. B. Whytehead, and Dr. W. J. Chetwode Crawley be a committee to investigate the matter and report in due course, when an agreement is arrived at.

(To be continued).

CONSECRATION OF THE MERTON LODGE, No. 2790.

Another new lodge was consecrated on Thursday, the 4th inst., at Rutlish Hall, Kingston-road, Merton, Surrey. It is entitled the Merton Lodge, No. 2790. The Consecrating Officer was Bro. E. Letchworth, Grand Sec., F.S.A., assisted by Bro. James Stephens, P. Dep. G.D.C., as S.W.; T. H. Gardiner, P.A.G.D.C., as J.W.; Rev. Canon Brownrigg, P.G. Chap., as Chap.; Frank Richardson, P.G.D., as D.C.; and Frank Adams, P.M., as I.G.

The hall of the Boys' Club of Merton was used as a lodge room.

There was a goodly assemblage of founders and visitors to support the the Grand Secretary and the Grand Officers.

Among the visitors we noticed

Bros. Frank Adams, P.M. 2512, 1259, 1702, W.M. 2512; W. J. H. Denscow, 2512, Sec. 2766; J. M. Compton, P.M. 2334; J. D. Oscroft, S.D. 902; H. W. Schartau, W.M. 1261; E. W. Hobbs, P.M. 2308; T. H. Hobbs, P.M., P.P.G. Sec. Bucks; John Josey, 1706; J. J. Ross, 2421; Charles Castell, 2234, P.M. 902; R. J. T. Hopkin, P.M. 87; H. E. Poole, Sec. 2030; J. Burges, 1360; Wm. Harding, 1360; W. J. Daw, Stwd. 1360; J. S. Whiter, P.M. 1892, P.P. J.G.W.; S. Stallard, P.M. 951; J. M. Hamm, P.M. 238; T. Masters, 2146; R. Sandlands, J.D. 2398; Prof. F. W. Driver, M.A., P.M. 45; B. Carter, S.W. 2535; J. J. Smith, P.M. 2030; H. Young, 33; W. Cannon, D.C. 2308; F. A. Sherras, S.D. 1608; F. P. Smith, I.G. 1056; T. H. Goodwin, Stwd. 889; G. Dean, 1539; J. Wilson, J.W. 12884; Henry Sadler, Grand Tyler; Frederick Barnes, 2030; C. E. Pillinger, 902; G. Anger, 902; F. Neller, W.M. 1360; and Halfhide, I.P.M. 1360.

The new lodge was consecrated by the Grand Secretary in the usual impressive manner so well known to the Craft generally.

The installation of the W.M. designate was undertaken by the Grand Secretary, as Installing Master, but Bro. E. W. Pillinger, P.M., being already an Installed Master, was only invested and placed in the chair by the Installing Master.

The W.M. invested Bro. T. Skelton, P.M., as I.P.M. The Board of Installed Masters was then closed.

The brethren were re-admitted, and saluted the W.M. in the Three Degrees.

The W.M. then invested his officers as follows: Bros. W. H. Brand, S.W.; T. Holloway, J.W.; E. S. Friederberg, P.M., Treas.; A. J. Tindell, Sec.; Dr. M. K. Hargreaves, S.D.; R. Leach, J.D.; J. B. Munday, I.G.; W. E. Manby, P.M., D. of C.; and R. W. Lawrence and W. Poupart, Stwds. The appointment of Tyler was deferred.

The three addresses were given by the G. Secretary.

A committee was appointed of the lodge officers to consider the by-laws.

The W.M. proposed, and the S.W. seconded, a vote of thanks to the G. Secretary, the Consecrating Officer, also to the Grand Officers who assisted, which was carried unanimously. The Consecrating Officers were also made honorary members.

The G. SECRETARY returned thanks to the W.M. on behalf of the Assistant Consecrating Officers and himself.

There were several proposals for initiation, and one as a joining member.

After "Hearty good wishes" from the visitors, the lodge was closed by the W.M., and the brethren adjourned to a large hall adjoining, which was prettily decorated with banners, Masonic emblems, flowers, &c.

After a well-served banquet, the W.M. gave the usual toasts.

In proposing "The Queen and the Craft," the W.M. said this was an important toast at all times, but especially now; all parties were leagued together for the common good, the centre of which was our beloved Queen; she was an ideal Monarch and mother, and possessed all the feelings of a Mason, worthy, indeed, to be the Patron of our noble Craft.

"God Save the Queen" was sung.

¹ "Masonic Sketches and Reprints," by W. J. Hughan, 1871, pp. 44-6.

After the toast of "The M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales," "God Bless the Prince of Wales" was sung.

"The M.W. Pro G.M., Earl Amherst; the R.W. Dep. G.M., the Earl of Warwick; and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past," was next given.

Songs—"Voices of the Western Wind" and "Here's to the King," by Bro. John Josey.

Bro. FRANK RICHARDSON replied on behalf of the Grand Officers. He said that from the cordial manner in which the toast was received, it was easy for him to answer on their behalf.

The W.M. gave "The Consecrating Officers." He was sure that the brethren would join with him in giving them hearty thanks for their services.

Scotch ballad—"Sound the Pibroch," by Sam Masters.

The Consecrating Officer, the GRAND SECRETARY, replied. He begged to thank the W.M. and the brethren for their genial welcome. There was no greater pleasure to the Consecrating Officers than that of starting a new lodge into existence.

The GRAND SECRETARY gave "The Health of the W.M." He said the lodge was happy in having so good a W.M. He was intimately connected with the parish. The W.M. was a Past Master of the Burgoyne Lodge.

Bro. Schartau gave a comic song (selected).

Bro. John Josey sang "The Gay Hussar."

The W.M. replied. He said he had omitted to name Bro. Frank Adams as one of the Consecrating Officers. He trusted he would forgive him. He had now to respond to the toast given by the Grand Secretary. He said he felt the importance of the post he held. Masonry as a religion was enunciated in the Book of Books. Once upon a time there was only one religion, the God of the Universe. Masonic religion was simple. No one could achieve perfection, but we should all aim at it. He, himself, imperfectly aimed at it to carry out his duties as W.M. He would ask the kind co-operation of his brethren. He thanked them for their hearty reciprocity in the sentiments of the Grand Secretary.

Song—"The Gown of Green," by Bro. Hayward.

Ballad—"When all the world is fair," by Bro. Sam Masters.

The W.M. gave the toast of "The Visitors." He said in the name of Masonry he gave them a hearty welcome.

Bro. Prof. Driver recited his patriotic poem, "Ready, aye Ready."

Humorous Duett (tenor and baritone), Bros. John Josey and Samuel Masters.

Bros. Frank Adams, A. Compton, P.M.; Chas. Castell, F. Neller, and J. S. Whiter replied to the toast.

The toasts of "The Treasurer and Secretary," and "The Officers of the Lodge," followed, and were warmly received and fittingly acknowledged.

The Tyler's toast concluded the proceedings.

The musical arrangements were by Bro. Schartau.

Craft Masonry.

Hengist Lodge, No. 195.

The annual festival and installation meeting was held on Thursday, the 4th inst., when close upon 100 members and visitors foregathered at the Masonic Hall, Bournemouth. Amongst the distinguished visitors was Bro. E. Goble, P.G.S.B. England, D.P.G.M. Bro. W. Humphrey, P.M., impressively installed the W.M. elect, Bro. J. A. Nethercoate, who appointed his officers as follows: Bros. W. Miller, S.W.; Ernest Jones, J.W.; C. J. Whitting, P.P.S.G.D., Chap.; J. Mapp, P.M., Treas.; W. Woodhouse, P.P.J.G.D., Sec.; C. H. Mate, S.D.; I. W. Manuell, J.D.; R. Hodges, P.P.G.S.B., D.C.; G. McWilliam, I.G.; C. Diel, Org.; C. H. Goater and F. J. Webb, Stwds.; and W. J. Holloway, Tyler.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. A handsome Past Master's jewel was presented to the retiring W.M., Bro. W. Mattocks, who has had a remarkably successful year of office. A vote of congratulation was passed to be sent the Prov. Grand Master, Bro. the Right Hon. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., on his appointment to membership of her Majesty's Privy Council. The sum of five guineas (increased at banquet to 13 guineas) was voted to the Mayor of Bournemouth's Fund for the Widows and Orphans of the troops killed in South Africa. The balance sheet was presented by the Treasurer, Bro. J. Mapp, and showed that during the year 1899 the subscriptions received amounted to £87 and the joining fees to £91 7s.

The banquet was held at the Grand Hotel, the W.M. being supported on his right by the D.P.G.M., Bros. E. W. Rebbeck, J. Druitt, jun., and A. E. J. Francis, P. Prov. S.G.Ws.; C. J. Whitting, C. W. Keep, H. E. Hawker, and W. Woodhouse, P. Prov. G.Ds.; J. C. Webber (Mayor of Bournemouth), P.P.G.S.B.; and others, and on his left by the I.P.M., the Installing Master, Bros. W. Dunn, P.P.G. Reg.; C. T. Miles, P.P.G. Supt. of Wks.; R. Hodges, P.P.G.S.B.; Vye, Mapp, Cutler, and Youngman, P.Ms.; and others. The visitors included many Prov. Grand Officers of the neighbouring Province of Dorsetshire.

The toast of the evening, "Bro. J. A. Nethercoate, W.M.," was submitted by Bro. J. Druitt, jun., P.P.S.G.W., who paid eloquent testimony to the new Worshipful Master's great popularity as a Mason, a sportsman, and all round good fellow.

Songs and recitations were interspersed with the toasts, and altogether it was one of the most successful festivals ever held by this old lodge.

Mariners' Lodge, No. 168.

On the 3rd instant the installation of Bro. W. D. Murdoch as W.M. of the above lodge took place under the most auspicious circumstances in the Masonic Temple, Le Marchant-street, Guernsey. The lodge was opened in formal manner at about 6.45, and some business disposed of. The Prov. G. Master, Bro. James B. Cockburn, having signified his intention of paying an official visit to the lodge, accompanied by the Dep. Prov. G. Master and the Prov. G. Wardens, preparations were made to receive the distinguished brethren in proper style. Precisely at seven o'clock they were announced, and Bros. J. B. Cockburn, Prov. G. Master; E. C. Ozanne, Dep. Prov. G. Master; W. Stranger, Prov. S.G.W.; and E. K. Corbin, Prov. J.G.W., entered the lodge room. The Prov. G. Master, having been greeted in regular manner, took the W.M.'s chair, the Dep. Prov. G. Master, who was also greeted, taking a seat at Bro. Cockburn's right hand. The ceremony of installing Bro. W. D. Murdoch was then proceeded with, and carried out in faultless manner in the presence of some 36 Past Masters and 60 brethren by the Prov. G. Master. The new W.M. was also addressed by the Dep. Prov. G. Master, Bro. E. C. Ozanne. The addresses to the W.M., the Wardens, and brethren were respectively given in very impressive style by Bros. W. Stanger and E. K. Corbin, and by the Prov. G. Master. The W.M. then invested his officers as follows: Bros. S. A. Candon, I.P.M.; T. Petty, J.W.; W. Austin, Chap.; A. C. Quick, Sec.; T. Pengelley, Treas.; C. Lowe, S.D.; W. D. Jones, J.D.; L. Whelan, Org.; W. T. Pugsley, I.G.; D. Donald and C. R. Mahy, Stwds.; and P. Geraghty, Tyler. Owing to indisposition Bro. A. W. Parker was not present, and will be invested as S.W. at the next monthly meeting.

This very gratifying ceremony being concluded, the brethren adjourned to the banqueting room, where a pleasant couple of hours was passed, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts proposed and drunk.

During the evening £10 was unanimously voted on behalf of the Transvaal Local War Fund.

During the banquet, after Bro. C. Kitts had recited "The Absent-Minded Beggar," a collection was made towards the above object. The result was very liberal.

TRANSVAAL BRETHREN RELIEF FUND.

The following Contributions to this Fund have been received, namely:—

	£	s.	d.
R.W. Bro. George Richards, Dist. G.M. Transvaal	100	0	0
Bro. S. R. Baskett	1	1	0
Bro. W. F. Lamonby	1	1	0
Beaminster Manor Lodge, No. 1367	1	1	0
Committee Dinner Club, R.M.I. for Boys, per J. M. McLeod, Secretary	5	5	0
Bro. J. M. McLeod and Family, Christmas Dinner Collection	3	3	0
Dinner Collection, Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2075, per Bro. Glaeser	6	6	6
Royal Clarence Lodge, No. 976, Bruton (Somersetshire), per Bro. W. P. Buckley, P.M., Treas.	2	1	0

Cheques, Post-office Orders, &c., to be made payable to the "Proprietor" or "Editor" of the *Freemason*, London Joint Stock Bank, Ltd., Chancery-lane Branch.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1900

Masonic Notes.

The Committee of Management of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution held its regular monthly meeting at Freemasons' Hall on Wednesday, the 10th inst., Bro. W. Russell, P.A.G.D.C., occupied the chair, and there was a full attendance of members to support him. The main business was the consideration of a long list of petitions, 21 in number, 11 of them being from brethren, and the remaining 10 from widows of brethren. The result of the Committee's deliberations was that all were accepted and the names ordered to be entered on the lists for the annual elections on the third Friday in May.

We have been requested to announce that the Prov. G. Master of Cornwall has ruled that the installation of the W. Master of the Fort Lodge, No. 1528, New-

quay, on the 14th November last, was illegal, and that, in consequence, the W.M. and officers of the lodge remain as they were before that date. We are also informed that the Prov. G. Master has suspended the Fort Lodge from its Masonic duties pending an inquiry into official complaints of irregularities alleged to have been committed by members of the said lodge.

We very heartily congratulate Bro. C. E. Davies, M.W.G. Master of the Grand Lodge of Tasmania, on the honour—that of Past Grand Warden of the United Grand Lodge of England—which his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, our M.W.G.M., has been pleased to confer upon him.

With all deference to Bro. W. F. Lamonby we consider we are justified in describing Lord Carrington—or Earl Carrington as he is now—as having "served as the last District Grand Master of New South Wales under the English Constitution." True his lordship was never installed in office, and, therefore, under Article 82 of the Book of Constitutions as referred to by Bro. Lamonby, none of the acts he may have done as District Grand Master can have had any validity. But the Grand Lodge Calendar for 1889 includes his lordship among the District Grand Masters and gives the date of his patent of appointment as the 10th January, 1888. He was never installed as District Grand Master, because not so very long after his appointment he was elected and installed as the first M.W. Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales. We do not consider the matter is one of any great importance, but there is no doubt about his having been appointed to the office, and we think the Calendar Committee of the Board of General Purposes is justified in including him in its lists of District Grand Masters as stated.

We most cordially reciprocate Bro. T. May's kind wishes for "a Happy New Year and a prosperous XXth Century," but we do not agree with him that we entered upon the latter on Monday, the 1st instant. Dr. Joseph Parker, of the City Temple, dogmatically asserts that we did, and supplemented this assertion with the statement that "no man in his senses can doubt it." But Dr. Parker notwithstanding, we hold that we are still in the 19th century, and that the world will not enter upon the next or 20th century until the first moment of the 1st January, 1901.

The question whether the birth of Christ occurred at the date ordinarily assigned to it, in the year which is commonly described as B.C. 4, or at some other time, has nothing whatever to do with the point which has been raised as to whether we are now in the 19th or 20th century. For practical purposes, we reckon our time from the birth of Christ, and the moment or moments in which He was being born into the world are the beginning of the first year of the Christian Era. That first year was not ended until the last of the full number of days constituting a year had run its course, and then the world entered upon the second year. When 99 years had been thus completed, the world entered upon the last year of the 1st century, and when that in its turn was completed, there was an end of the 1st century of the Christian Era. Following up this mode of computation we have the second century ending with the close of the year 200 A.D., and so on with each succeeding century until we come to the 19th, which entered upon its course on the 1st January, 1801, and will have completed that course on the 31st December, 1900, but not before. As Bro. Lovegrove very justly remarks, it is ridiculous to affirm that 1899 years make up 19 complete periods of 100 years each, i.e., 1900 years.

Bro. May is quite right in saying that "a new century must begin with 0," but the "0" must not be taken to apply, as he appears to apply it, to a whole year, but only to that infinitely small portion of time which follows instantly upon the completion of the preceding century. There is no "year 0 A.D." in our chronology as there is a "year 1 A.D.," or "101 A.D.," or "1801 A.D.," but there is a moment of time "0" so brief as to be entirely indeterminable. This commencing moment of each successive new period of time, which begins, as we have said, when the preceding period is completed, may very properly be indicated as "0," but though inappreciable in itself it becomes with each succeeding moment ever more and more appreciable until it has grown to what is called a "second," then to a minute, an hour, a day, and lastly,

to a year, consisting of a given number of days. Each succeeding year in its turn begins and ends in the same way, and when 100 of these years have passed, what is called a century is completed and we start afresh with the first moment of the next century, and so on.

Bro. May is quite right in his argument derived from the case of the pedestrian who undertakes to walk 100 miles. It is undeniable that said pedestrian has covered his 100 miles "when he arrives at the 100th milestone." We grant that "he must walk one mile before arriving at the first stone," and also that "the second 100 miles begin at the 100 milestone," but the conclusion we draw from these statements is not the same as Bro. May draws. The first 100 miles is completed when the 100th milestone is reached, but the first mile of the second 100 is not completed until the 101st milestone is reached, and the second 100 miles not until the 200th milestone.

The mistake which Bro. May makes is in considering the milestone is in itself a mile, whereas it is, in fact the point at which one mile ends and the next mile begins. The pedestrian must cover 1760 yards before he reaches his first milestone, 100 times 1760 yards before he reaches the 100th milestone, but he must cover an additional 1760 yards before he reaches his 101st milestone and an additional 100 times 1760 yards before his 200th milestone. In fact, the milestone is in the position of the mathematical point, that is, it has neither parts nor magnitude. It seems to mark the end of the mile and the beginning of the mile, but in neither case is it a part of the mile, and is best indicated by 0. Similarly in our measurement of time, the point which separates the new year from its predecessor is "without parts or magnitude," and for convenience sake we must indicate it by "0."

In order, however, to make our meaning still more clear, we will take the centigrade thermometer for the purposes of illustration. This, as our readers are aware, is marked out into 100 equal spaces, called degrees, starting from zero ("0") as freezing point and rising to 100° (boiling point). If we consider each of these spaces or degrees to be a year, we have between 0 and 100 a complete century; and if we continue the measurement, say, to 200, we have a second century, starting from 100 and ending with 200. This continuation may be carried as far as may be required for the purposes of the proposed measurement. If, on the other hand, we carry on the measurement in the opposite direction, then, starting from ("0"), we shall in due course arrive at 100° below zero, and taking each space or degree as a year, we shall have another complete century.

Now if we take the line at zero to represent the birth of Christ, then in the 100 equal spaces or degrees—which, for the purposes of our argument we call years—we have between that line and 100 a complete century, and for every additional 100 spaces we have an additional century. Then starting in the opposite direction from zero—the Nativity—and marking out 100 equal spaces or years we have a complete century terminating, of course, with the completed 100th space, and then a second complete century terminating similarly with the completed 200th space and so on *ad infinitum*. Thus with zero representing the birth of Christ, we have each successive completed 100 spaces above it, representing a century B.C., and each successive completed series of 100 spaces below it, representing a century A.D., and it will need 19 successive series of 100 spaces to complete 19 centuries. Hence the 20th century does not commence until the 1900th space or year has been completed. This is a very simple illustration, and some may suggest that, in our anxiety to make things clear, we have overlaid it with detail; but, in our humble judgment, it presents the case admirably in a manner that cannot be questioned.

At the Quarterly General Court of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys which was to be held at Freemasons' Hall at 4 p.m. to-day (Friday), a motion, of which Bro. Richard Eve, Past Grand Treasurer, Chairman of the Board of Management, had given notice, was to be brought before the meeting to the effect that the Board of Management should have power to place—without election—on the list of Boys maintained and educated out of the Institution "any duly qualified boy, who, by the death or permanent incapacity of his father whilst engaged in time of war in the Naval or Military Service of his Queen and Country, may become entitled to receive the benefits of the Institution, provided that at the time of such occurrence the father was a subscribing member to some lodge." We have no doubt that this proposed new Rule, of which it is impossible to speak in terms of exaggerated commendation, will be accepted by the Court of Governors *nem con.*, but of this we shall be in a position to certify our readers next week, when we hope a report of the proceedings will appear.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents, but we wish, in a spirit of fair play to all, to permit—within certain necessary limits—free discussion.

THE NEW CENTURY.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

I have carefully read the opinions of many people on this matter and cannot conceive how any sane person can think that the 19th century is complete until the 31st December, 1900.

How can a century begin with a cypher? The 19th century began on the 1st January, 1801, and will end as before stated.

After the year B.C. 1 came A.D. 1; there was no year 0 in between.

Or, take another view, after the year 4004 A.M. came A.D. 1.

Whether the Christian era commenced when the Saviour was four years old or one cannot matter, as time is now reckoned from A.D. 1. Eighteen centuries have been completed, and we have now entered upon the last year of the 19th century. Can 1899 years make 19 centuries?—Yours fraternally,

HENRY LOVEGROVE, P.G.S.B.

Herne-hill, S.E.

THE "ECCE HOMO."

Some years ago, in one of the art galleries abroad, I cannot remember where it was, I was much struck with a picture by an unknown artist. It was an "Ecce Homo," a single figure. In the cold grey of the early morning, there was nothing remarkable about the face, but, when, later on, the rays of the sun fell upon it, the picture seemed to be illuminated with a heavenly radiance. Our Saviour appeared to gaze upon the beholder with a Divine compassion that could not fail to make a deep impression. This was observed by others besides myself. The story is related that it was the last work of an artist in the Middle Ages, who, during a life weighed down by troubles and privations, had his faith shaken in the designs of an overruling Providence, and, in spirit, rebelled against its decrees. The trials of extreme poverty and of unappreciated genius had hardened his heart. His bodily strength declined owing to the privations he had undergone. On one occasion, he, unexpectedly, received a commission from a rich man who had seen some of his works. The artist eagerly accepted the liberal offer made to him. The subject proposed was an "Ecce Homo." Careless at first, simply engaged in the mechanical details of his art, he thought little of his subject, but, gradually a feeling of reverence he could not understand came over him. His thoughts went back to his early years and the religious teachings of his good mother. His work began to interest him, it seemed as if he were guided by another hand besides his own. His heart, so long frozen, was thawed, and gushed forth with waters of repentance for his past sins. Though his health was now completely broken down, his spirit was sustained and enabled him to complete his task. On the last day of his work, the pictured face smiled upon him with exquisite compassion and forgiveness. In the evening he was found dead before his easel—the heavenly smile had been transferred to his cold pale lips.

F. W. DRIVER, M.A.

LOGIC CLUB.

On Sunday, the 7th instant, an event happened which was exceptional in the long experience of the Logic Club. The ceremony of Raising was rehearsed. Every officer was a W.M. actually in the chair of K.S. at the present time. The W.M. of the morning was Bro. R. G. Robinson, W.M. of the Chislehurst Lodge, No. 1531, who was assisted by the undermentioned officers: Bros. E. J. Gordon, W.M. of the Scots Lodge, No. 2319, as S.W.; A. Craddock, W.M. of the Tivoli Lodge, No. 2150, as J.W.; J. H. Merrett, W.M. of the Royal Athelstan Lodge, No. 19, as S.D.; W. R. Bennett, W.M. of the Playgoers' Lodge, No. 2705, as J.D.; and Guy Repton, W.M. of the Drury Lane Lodge, No. 2127, as I.G. Bro. Robert Manuel, P.M. 1196, as usual, was the Preceptor. Bro. Seaman acted as Tyler, and Bro. E. Davis was the candidate. The work was well done, and was up to the highest standard of Logic working. The W.M. gave the Traditional History, with the explanation of the Third Tracing Board. The sum of five guineas was voted from the funds of the lodge as a contribution to the City of London Imperial Volunteer Fund. Bro. G. Pollard, a member of the club, has volunteered for the front, and goes out with the first contingent. The sum of £7 12s. 6d. was also collected, as a sign of compliance with her Gracious Majesty's recent mandate. Bro. F. Trehawke Davies, of No. 2127, presented every member at the gathering with a charming etching of an original painting of "An Old Manor House," by A. Railton. It was intimated that Bro. Harry Manfield, G.T. designate, had accepted the invitation of the club to be its principal guest on the occasion of the annual dinner, to be held at the Café Royal, on Sunday, the 28th instant, when also special honour is to be paid to Bro. J. Percy Fitzgerald, the only surviving founder, and for 19 years the Secretary of the club. The members avail themselves fully of the facilities which now exist for the study of the Logic Ritual, and the old club has started the new year with every sign of further extending its sphere of influence.

FIFTY THOUSAND POUNDS are required for the erection of a hospital at Capetown for the sick and wounded of the Imperial Yeomanry. Details of the scheme are published. There will be 520 beds, £50 being sufficient to provide accommodation for one sufferer. One bed has been given by H.R.H. the Princess of Wales, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales has given £100, and many other donors have come forward.

AT MARLBOROUGH HOUSE on Saturday, the 6th instant, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales presented to Mr. W. J. C. Brasier, chief superintendent of the Ambulance Brigade, and Dr. Samuel Osborn, chief surgeon of the Metropolitan Corps, the medal awarded by the Chapter of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. Sir John Hurley had also been awarded a medal, but was unable to receive it, owing to his being on his way out to South Africa as the special commissioner of the Central British Red Cross Committee.

Craft Masonry.

St. John's Lodge, No. 70.

The installation meeting of this lodge was held on St. John's Day, the 27th ult., at the Freemasons' Hall, Plymouth. Bro. the Hon. Sir H. Stafford Northcote, Prov. G. Master, wrote expressing regret at being unable to be present, and wishing a prosperous year of office to Bro. C. J. Moore, S.W., the W.M. elect. There were present Bros. J. B. Gover, P.P.G. Sec., Sec.; C. J. Withell, P.P.S.G.D., Treas.; F. B. Westlake, P.S.G.W., P.D.G.D. of C. Eng.; J. R. Lord, P.P.G.T., P.G.D.C.; G. R. Stanlake, P.P.A.G.D.C.; W. King, P.P.G.P.; E. Tout, P.P.G.S.B.; George Leach, T. King, J. H. Hocking, W. Sweet, J. G. Kevern, P.P.G.D.C.; and W. T. Hocking, P.P.G. Std. Br. (all of the lodge); Bros. S. G. Edwards, P.M. 1550; H. Bulteel, W.M. 1255; C. F. Cooper, W.M. 105; W. A. Staton, P.M. and Sec. 1099; P. Hannaford, P.M. 223; G. Dunsterville, 189, P.P.G.D.; J. Gidley, 2025, P.P.G.S.B.; W. Allsford, 202, P.P.G.T.; G. Perkins, P.M. 1205; W. V. Harris, 230, P.P.G. Supt. of Works; J. Taylor, 1212; J. Clift, I.P.M. 666; J. Good, W.M. 223; J. Brooks, W.M. 1247; W. L. Lavers, P.P.G. Stwd.; W. H. Botterell, 1255; F. Bromley, P.M. 230; G. J. Corrick, P.M. 159; J. W. Cornish, 223, P.P.G.T.; A. G. Friend, I.P.M. 1099; G. F. Matheson, 2025; C. Organ, P.M. 202; F. G. Knight, 156, P.P.S.G.D.; H. Holman, 202, P.P.J.G.D.; P. B. Clemens, 156, P.P.G.O.; W. H. Bird, P.M. 1099; S. H. Hare, 189, P.G.O.; W. Budge, 1550; M. Kerton, I.P.M. 954; J. Venning, W.M. 1550; P. G. L. Pearce, P.M. and Sec. 1247; W. Willoughby, S.W. 1247, P.P.G.O.; C. Wilson, 1247; P. T. Pearce, 2725; M. G. Endle, 189; J. W. Pearce, 1550; G. Hale, 230; T. G. B. Crocker, S.W. 156; S. Ritchie, 159; J. G. Jackson, 1247; J. E. Bone, 1550; G. Myers, 70; A. Conick, 70; J. Jacobs, 70; and M. Woolf, 70.

Lodge being opened, and the minutes of the last regular meeting having been read and duly confirmed, the W.M. elect, Bro. C. J. Moore, S.W., was presented by Bro. F. B. Westlake, P.S.G.W., P.D.G.D. of C., to the Installing Master and obligated. The ceremony of installation was taken part in by Bros. F. B. Westlake, J. R. Lord, J. B. Gover, C. J. Withell, F. J. Prout, G. Leach, and G. R. Stanlake, there being present nearly 50 P.Ms. to give evidence of the popularity of Bro. C. J. Moore. The Board of Installed Masters having been closed, the investiture of officers took place as follows: Bros. F. J. Prout, I.P.M.; A. Andrews, S.W.; C. Organ, B.A., J.W.; C. J. Withell, P.P.J.G.D., Treas. and Representative Committee of Petitions; J. B. Gover, P.P.G.S., Sec.; G. R. Stanlake, P.P.A.G.S., Asst. Sec. and Representative Widows' Fund; G. Leach, P.M., Chap.; W. Hocking, P.P.G. Std. Br., Charity Steward; W. H. Crang, S.D.; J. Newton, J.D.; E. G. Goad, D. of C.; E. E. Farley, Asst. D. of C. and Asst. Org.; G. T. H. Woodgate, Org.; G. Gomez, I.G.; J. K. Brenton, T. Wainwright, S. A. Robbins, and C. Allwright, Stwds.; and W. H. Phillips, Tyler.

The brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet in the dining hall of the Freemasons' Club, Princess-square.

The toast of "The Queen and the Craft" having been given by the W.M., the National Anthem was heartily sung.

On the proposition of the W.M., "The M.W.G.M. and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past" were toasted.

Bro. Westlake, P.D.G.D.C. Eng., in the course of his reply, congratulated Bro. C. J. Moore, and expressed the hope that the brethren would rally around him, and so enable the lodge to do that amount of good which was expected from it. He could assure them that the Grand Lodge was very anxious to properly carry out the onerous duties which devolved upon it. Proceeding, Bro. Westlake commended the various Charities to the attention of the brethren, and appealed to them to do all in their power to support the funds, which were doing such noble work.

The toasts of "The Prov. Grand Masters of Devon and Cornwall, Hon. Sir Stafford Northcote, and the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe (who from a prior engagement was unable to attend), and their Prov. Grand Lodges," were duly proposed by the W.M.

Bro. G. R. Stanlake, P.P.A.G.S., responded for the former, and referred to the universal esteem in which the Prov. Grand Master was held throughout the Province of Devon.

Bro. S. H. Hare, P.P.G.O., responded for the Province of Cornwall, and he trusted that the Earl would long be spared to rule a province so contented under his government.

The toast of "The W.M., Bro. C. J. Moore," was proposed by Bro. F. B. Westlake, who said the lodge was to be congratulated at having installed in the chair a brother who was generally esteemed and who had sufficient firmness of character to preside over the lodge with success.

The W.M. was accorded a very hearty reception on rising to reply. In the course of his remarks, he thanked the brethren for the confidence reposed in him, and assured them that at all times his best efforts would be devoted to promote the welfare of Lodge 70. The cares of office would be pleasant cares if he was accorded such support as was extended to his immediate predecessor.

The toast of "The I.P.M., Bro. Prout," was submitted by the W.M., who having given expression to the admirable manner in which the late Master had conducted the affairs of the lodge, in appropriate terms presented Bro. Prout with a handsome marble clock, and a Life Governorship of one of the Charities for his wife, and a Past Master's collar, which had been subscribed for by the members he had initiated during his year of office.

Bro. Prout very heartily thanked the brethren for their many marks of kindly feeling towards him throughout his year of office, and also for the presents he and his wife had received.

The toast of "The Treasurer and Secretary" was next given.

The Treasurer and Secretary replied.

The toast of "The S.W., J.W., and Officers" was given by Bro. Prout.

The Wardens and Organist replied.

The W.M. said there was another toast which he would like to submit to the brethren, although not on the list, and that was "The Health of Bro. Gidley, P.P.G.T. Devon," who has achieved a record which falls to the lot of few Masons, that of completing the 50th anniversary of his installation as W.M. of 156 Harmony. This is something which no other Mason in the Three Towns, or possibly in Devon or Cornwall can now lay claim to. For the remainder of his life, Bro. Gidley is assured of an honoured seat in every lodge in the locality.

Bro. Gidley suitably and feelingly acknowledged the compliment.

The toast of "The Visitors" was submitted by Bro. Geo. Leach.

Bros. Staton, M. Kirton, and Percy T. Pearce made very suitable responses.

The toast list concluded with those of "Wives and Sweethearts" and "Our Absent Brethren."

The toast list was interspersed with an enjoyable programme of music. Bro. J. N. Pearce was an efficient accompanist.

Scientific Lodge, No. 88.

The installation meeting of this old yet vigorous lodge (which was consecrated in 1754) took place at the Lion Hotel, Cambridge, on Monday, the 8th instant, when Bro. Frederick John Moden was installed in the chair of K.S. in succession to Bro. Horace S. Davison. There was a goodly muster of brethren and visitors, and the company numbered 70. Nevertheless, there were many apologies for non-attendance, with "Hearty good wishes." There were 29 in attendance at the Board of Installed Masters. Amongst those present were the Prov. G. Master of Cambridgeshire, Bro. Colonel R. Townley Caldwell; Bros. the Right Hon. Sir John E. Gorst, Q.C., M.P. for Cambridge, Past J.G.W. Eng. (who was initiated in this lodge in 1855); G. McKay, Past G. Std. Br. Eng. (a subscribing member); and the following P.Ms. of the lodge, Bros. B. Chennell, T. Hunnybun, Oliver Papworth, J. V. Pryor, W. Purchas, Frank Piggott, W. P. Spalding, C. H. Banham, J. L. Rutter, A. E. Chaplin, W. Sindall, and J. H. Moyes. The work of installation was performed by Bro. H. S. Davison, who, in spite of temporary indisposition turned up to install his successor, and he did it right well. Subsequently Bro. Davison was presented with the lodge's Past Master's jewel by the Prov. Grand Master in a very happy speech on good work done. The proclamations and the working tools were entrusted to Bro. F. Piggott, and the charges were most effectively delivered by Bro. J. H. Moyes, a son of the late D.P.G.M. Cambs. The following are the officers of the lodge for the year 1900: Bros. F. J. Moden,

P.G. Stwd., W.M.; H. S. Davison, P.G. Supt. of Works, I.P.M.; William James, S.W.; Arthur R. Hill, J.W.; C. H. Banham, P.M., P.P.G. Reg., Chap.; B. W. Beales, jun., P.P.A.G.D.C., Treas.; O. Papworth, P.M., P.P.S.G.W., P.G. Sec.; C. F. Charlton, P.P.G. Stwd., S.D.; John Bester, P.P.G. Purst., J.D.; F. Piggott, P.M., P.P.J.G.W., D.C.; A. H. Langridge, I.G.; W. Purchas, P.M., P.P.G. Reg., Org.; C. Percy Jones, Std. Br.; W. Sindall, P.M., P.P.G. Supt. of Works, Stwd.; and G. A. Allen, Tyler.

At the banquet which followed, the customary Masonic toasts were given from the chair.

Bro. Sir John E. Gorst, M.P., Minister of Education, responded for "The Grand Officers of England." He expressed his thankfulness for being afforded an opportunity of visiting his mother lodge. In coming back to them he seemed to resemble the part of Rip Van Winkle, for he believed there was not a member of the lodge now existing who was present at his initiation in No. 88 in the year 1855. Still, he was glad to find that, although the older members had joined the majority, the lodge lived and flourished—(applause)—that the work was done the same as it was done in former times; and that the brethren seemed as eager and devoted to Masonry as ever. It was, indeed, a great pleasure to him to be present to see how the old Masonic principles flourished among them; and he hoped that long after even all the present members had gone, this old lodge might be as vigorous and successful as ever. (Applause.)

The W.M. next gave "The Health of the Prov. G. Master," whose merits in Masonry were well known throughout the country, indeed, throughout the Masonic world.

The Prov. G. Master, Bro. Col. R. T. Caldwell, congratulated the lodge on having begun their year well, more especially as this was the last year of a closing century. He suggested that this was a favourable opportunity for enabling other parts of the province to participate in the enjoyment of Masonic privileges, and he pointed to the towns of March and Chatteris as convenient spots to settle down upon. He was happy to say that the province was in a very flourishing condition, all the lodges in the recent return of the Prov. G. Registrar showing an increase. This was the more gratifying from the fact that some feared the opposite from the establishment of the St. Audrey Lodge, No. 2727, at Ely, but that lodge was going strong. He hoped the province would have a successful year, and that the other lodges would take an example from No. 88 in pulling together and working harmoniously, as they did now and as they did in the times gone by. (Applause.)

Bro. McKay gave the toast of "The Dep. Prov. G. Master, Bro. the Rev. J. H. Gray, and the rest of the Prov. G. Officers," for whom Bro. F. W. Potts responded.

Bro. A. E. Chaplin, P.M., submitted the toast of "The W.M." in felicitous terms, and was sure that he would be equal to the occasion. Unfortunately for him, the by-laws restricted the membership to the number of the lodge (88), and their present numbers were 87, so that the prospect of work was small, unless altered by circumstances. It was an awkward predicament, and it might possibly have to be met by the creation of another lodge, because it must be remembered that they were keeping out those who desired to see the Light. He commended this thought seriously to the brethren.

The W.M., after thanking Bro. Chaplin for his complimentary remarks, admitted that he started on his career with a great deal of nervousness, but assured the brethren that it was his earnest purpose to faithfully discharge the duties of the chair, and at the end of his year of office he hoped they would be satisfied with his endeavours.

The Worshipful Master then proposed the toast of "The Installing Master, Bro. Davison, and the Past Masters."

Bro. Frank Piggott responded, and exhorted the members to work. That must be their motto if they would succeed in Masonry, and it would undoubtedly be amply repaid. Referring to the charges delivered by Bro. J. H. Moyes, he could safely say as an old pupil of their late worthy D.P.G.M., that the son had rivalled his father.

Bro. J. H. Moyes, P.M., proposed in feeling terms the toast of "The Masonic Charities," and made a spirited appeal on their behalf.

Bro. Oliver Papworth, P.G. Sec., a member of the Governing Board of the Masonic Boys' School, made an equally successful response, emphasising the great value of all the Masonic Charities.

The Worshipful Master then toasted "The Visiting Brethren," who were present from all the lodges in Cambridgeshire, as well as from London and other parts.

Responses were made by Bros. F. W. Miller, W.M. 441; Adie, 1492; W. Liddall, P.M. 157; and McNaught Davies, P.P.G. Purst. Derbyshire. Many of the other visitors by this time had to leave to catch trains home.

"The Officers of the Lodge" were not forgotten, and altogether the proceedings passed off with true Masonic harmony, the vocal contributions of various brethren adding much to the pleasures of the evening.

Lion and Lamb Lodge, No. 192.

An emergency meeting of the above lodge was held at Cannon-street Hotel, on Thursday, the 4th inst. Present: Bros. John G. Robeson, W.M.; T. Stokes, S.W.; G. Hughes, P.M., acting as J.W.; T. Coahu, P.M., Treas.; Jas. Smith, P.M., Sec.; A. J. Rippin, J.D., acting as S.D.; J. Collins, acting as J.D.; R. F. Roche, I.G.; William Baker, I.P.M. and D.C.; also Bros. Sasson, P.M.; Leach, Davies, Williams, Ransford, Farr, Lloyd, Lockett, N. MacLarty, A. A. Jones, T. E. Fergusson, Prevost, Wetton, Ward, Grimsdale, Smith, Blaxtan, R. W. Jones, and Chatterton, Organist.

The lodge was opened in due form, after which Bros. Prevost and T. E. Fergusson were raised, and Bros. Smith, A. A. Jones, Grimsdale, and N. MacLarty were passed.

Harmonic Lodge, No. 252.

On Tuesday, the 2nd instant, the Festival of St. John the Evangelist was celebrated by the above lodge (the mother lodge of Worcestershire) at the Saracen's Head Hotel, Dudley. There was a very large gathering of brethren from both the Provinces of Worcestershire and Staffordshire, including Bro. Abraham Green, P.G.P. Eng. A dispensation having been granted, Bro. George Harry Parke, proprietor of the hotel, was installed W.M. by Bro. Geo. Foster, I.P.M., and the newly-installed W.M. invested his officers as follows: Bros. George Foster, I.P.M.; D. J. Shedden, S.W.; A. R. Taylor, J.W.; the Rev. W. J. Down, P.M., P.P.G.C., Chap.; W. E. Walker, P.M., P.P.S.G.W., Treas.; James Jones, P.M., P.P.G. Std. Br., Sec.; James Arthur Fullwood, S.D.; T. Williams, J.D.; John Hollins, I.G.; Robert Stevenson, P.M., P.P.G.P., D. of C.; J. E. Jones, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., A.D. of C.; Hillman, Org.; S. G. Hooper and W. Mitchell, Stwds.; and Samuel Spittle, Tyler. The Treasurer's accounts showed that during the year three guineas had been voted to the Wolverhampton Orphanage, 10 guineas to the Reservists' Fund, and 20 guineas to the Benevolent Institution.

The banquet and postprandial proceedings were unusually enjoyable.

Bro. Frank Northall, the popular entertainer, gave several of his clever items in his usual happy style, whilst Bro. Ormesby Cooke, of London, performed some very clever conjuring tricks and gave zither solos, and Bro. W. F. Cheesewright, of London, sang "I lub a lubly gal" and "The Absent-Minded Beggar," in rare form. Local

brethren also contributed to the programme. The "Absent-Minded Beggar" realised over £3.

Bro. D. J. Shedden gave "The Masonic Charities," and pointed out that last year no less than £32,000 was subscribed to the Charities, the largest amount going to the Benevolent Institution. He was delighted to know that Bro. Forster was going up as a Steward, with 20 guineas from the lodge, and he hoped that sum would be augmented by the brethren. Though there were many demands on the pocket just now they must see that the Masonic Charities did not suffer.

Bro. E. J. Chambers responded, and urged upon the brethren to make some self sacrifice now that so many calls were being made upon them.

Lodge La Tolerance, No. 538.

It is happily but seldom that anything occurs to cloud the joyous proceedings of an installation meeting, yet, unfortunately, such an event happened on the 4th instant, the day set apart for the installation of Bro. John Cumming, S.W., W.M. elect of Lodge La Tolerance at Freemasons' Hall. The lodge met at four o'clock to confirm the minutes of the meeting of December last, and to raise Bro. Albert Edward Shiner to the Third Degree. But the brethren were landed in a great difficulty, which delayed progress in the lodge work for an hour-and-a-half by the fact which was communicated to them that on the morning of that day Bro. Cumming had been seized with a stroke of paralysis, and would not be able to attend. The news came as a great blow to the brethren, who, although knowing that Bro. Cumming was a very nervous man, were not prepared for such a development of his natural constitution. They remained, therefore, in consultation for a long period before opening the lodge in order to devise some plan for relieving the lodge of its difficulty without hurting the susceptibilities of their afflicted brother, for whose calamity the heartiest grief was expressed. At length, however, the lodge was opened, and the brethren who were in attendance were Bros. Thomas Alfred Tidy, W.M.; G. A. Sturgess, J.W.; James Kench, P.M., P.G.P., Treas.; Thomas W. Smale, P.M., Sec.; H. T. Hipwell, S.D.; S. C. Cross, J.D.; F. J. Pittman, P.M., I.G.; W. H. George, Charity Stwd.; A. E. Shinner, H. J. Davis, W. Rivett, J. Leather, E. J. Whittle, J. Allsop, F. A. Zeppenfeld, W. M. Everett, Ferdinand Kohn, J. Bannister Howard, and John W. Harrington. The visitors were Bros. W. Jarvis, 1471; H. Williams, 2427; Sidney F. Herbagh, 2005; Thomas R. Key, 926; Charles J. Brown, P.M. 733; W. J. Greig, P.M. 65; H. A. Sheppard, P.M. 1477; J. S. Goldstein, S.W. 2265; H. Massey, P.M. 619 and 1928; M. Beedle, J.W. 619; W. H. Hancock, 1772; T. C. Dorling, 1745; B. Nicuhous, 1446; John Paul, P.M. 1287; Howard E. Mullins, S.D. 211; J. H. Barnes, J.W. 2127; R. S. Genese, P.M. 2265; F. W. Garnham, W.M. 946; J. Oliver Morgan, 1509; and James Henning, P.M. 2398.

Bro. Smale, P.M., Sec., read the minutes, but the confirmation was deferred until some expert advice was obtained, and the W.M. conferred the Third Degree on Bro. Shiner. While this ceremony was being performed Bro. Dr. Hotten George, at the request of the W.M., paid a visit to Bro. Cumming in order to see him and report on his condition. The raising having been completed, Bro. Dr. George on his return reported unfavourably, and the brethren acting on the advice of Bro. James Terry, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.B.I., confirmed the minutes with the exception of that portion relating to the election of Worshipful Master, and called on Bro. Thomas Alfred Tidy to act as W.M. for another year. Bro. James Kench afterwards proceeded with the installation, and Bro. T. H. Clear was again appointed I.P.M., and the following brethren received the other collars of office: Bros. G. A. Sturgess, S.W.; H. T. Hipwell, J.W.; James Kench, P.M., P.G.P., Treas.; T. W. Smale, P.M., Sec.; J. J. Pittman, P.M., D.C.; G. T. Augspurg, P.M., Stwd., Org.; S. C. Cross, S.D.; F. J. Pittman, J.D.; Dr. Hotten George, I.G.; Bannister Howard, W. M. Everett, and J. Leather, Stwds.; and Thomas Bowler, P.M., Tyler. Bro. Smale was directed to convey the sympathy of the brethren to Bro. John Cumming and his family.

After the closing of the lodge the brethren adjourned to Freemasons' Tavern to banquet.

The toasts followed, and Miss Lily Heale, Miss Katie Thomas, Mr. Arthur Grover, and Bros. Walter George and Wallis Arthur entertained the company with singing.

Bro. James Kench, P.G.P., Treas., responded to the toast of "The Grand Officers."

Bro. T. H. Clear, I.P.M., proposed "The W.M.," expressing his regret that Bro. Cumming, whom the brethren of the lodge elected a month ago, was compelled by ill-health not to be present. Bro. Tidy's popularity in the lodge was well known; he had acted for one year to the entire satisfaction of the brethren, and the work he had done would be an earnest that the lodge would be again carried on with credit. Bro. Tidy was not altogether pleased with having to occupy the chair for another 12 months, but he had accepted the situation with willingness and alacrity, had got the lodge out of a difficulty, and had done so in a masterly way, which the brethren would recognise. He had had very successful meetings during the past year. The November meeting, which was usually very select, was numerous attended, and the festival of the lodge of instruction, at which he presided, was a record. The brethren had voted him a handsome Past Master's jewel, and this he (Bro. Clear) would now present to him. (Loud applause.)

Bro. W. A. Tidy, W.M., in reply, said he had not prepared himself with a speech in reply to this toast; he had prepared himself with something to say in proposing the toast of "The W.M." If he had known they were going to be so exceedingly kind to him in the unfortunate circumstances in which the lodge had been placed he should have tried to prepare something. When he parted with his affectionate wife that afternoon it was on the distinct understanding that it was the last occasion he was going to take the chair, and she said to him when he kissed her that when he had regained his old self-control she had no doubt they would resign themselves to that loveable life they had before. The difficulty he now had was that when he went home and told her he had to be W.M. for another year—well, he was extremely pleased he had had his hair cut. (Laughter.) He had to thank the brethren for the very kind manner he had always been received. He felt sure he could rely on his officers, and that they would give him the same assistance they had given in the past. He thanked the brethren very much for the splendid jewel they had presented to him; it would be a memento of the happy year he had had. As he had in the past year he should do his very best to uphold the honour, the usefulness, and the integrity of the lodge.

Bro. T. H. Clear, I.P.M., responding to the toast of "The I.P.M. and the Past Masters," said it would give him great pleasure to do all he could for the W.M. this year as he had done in the past. He was in much the same position as the W.M.; he had promised his wife he should be home early, as his work was now over.

Bro. J. J. Pittman, P.M., thought the lodge could not express itself in terms of thanks and gratitude too strong to the W.M. for getting it out of its difficulty. The P.Ms. were always ready to second the W.M., and render him any service to promote the interest of the lodge. La Tolerance was always noted for this.

Bro. Augspurg, P.M., also replied.

Bro. John Paul, P.M., and several other brethren responded to the toast of "The

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Visitors," and in the course of his observations said he hoped the brethren of the lodge would take advantage of La Tolérance Lodge of Instruction, of which he was Preceptor. The toasts of "The Treasurer and the Secretary" (responded to by Bros. Kench and Smale), and "The Officers" (for whom Bro. G. A. Sturgess, S.W., replied), were then given, and the Tyler's toast at a late hour concluded the proceedings.

Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2076.

The lodge met at Freemasons' Hall on Friday, the 5th instant, at five p.m. Present: Bros. T. B. Whythead, P.G.S.B., W.M.; C. Purdon Clarke, C.I.E., I.P.M.; W. M. Bywater, P.G.S.B., as S.W.; G. Greiner, J.W.; G. W. Speth, P.A.G.D.C., Sec.; the Rev. J. W. Horsley, I.G.; E. Armitage, Stwd.; and H. F. Goldney, P.G.D. Also 46 members of the Correspondence Circle and four visitors.

After the minutes had been confirmed, Bro. Whythead, the W.M., alluded in accents of deep feeling to the unexpected and sudden death of Bro. John Lane, P.A.G. D. of C., a loss which would be keenly felt by all the members of the lodge as that of a personal friend. The loss to the Craft in general was equally severe, as Bro. Lane had by his writings added very considerably to our knowledge, and in his "Masonic Records" had produced a work of the highest utility, such as no other Jurisdiction could boast, the elaborating of which would have seemed impossible to any other brother. His merits had been recognised by Grand Lodge in various ways, but in none more conspicuously than by the fact that Grand Lodge had itself assumed the publication and expense of the second edition of Bro. Lane's *magnum opus*. The W.M. added that his words on this occasion would be few, as at our next meeting he hoped that full justice would be done to our deceased brother. Meanwhile he would suggest that a letter of condolence and sympathy be sent to the widow and family of our dear brother. This was seconded and carried unanimously, and with evident emotion by those present. One lodge and 36 brethren were elected to the membership of the Correspondence Circle. The report of the Audit Committee was received and adopted. The report itself is couched in a minor tone, due to the serious losses of the lodge during the past year, viz., Bros. Hayter Lewis and W. Simpson, and also to the troubles now being endured by so many of its Correspondence members in South Africa; but the financial statement shows more than the usual buoyancy and success. The total receipts of £1630 (in round figures) are about £250 in excess of the expenditure, and there is beyond this a sum of nearly £550 due from various members, some of which will, of course, ultimately rank as an asset. The amount of these arrears constitutes, however, a serious reflection on some one, and is the feature which strikes us as least satisfactory of all. The letters of excuse from the lodge members for non-attendance were unusually numerous, and we regret that the prevailing influenza appears in many cases to have been the cause; among them were letters from Bros. Hamon le Strange, Prov. G.M. Norfolk; W. J. Hughan, P.G.D.; E. Macbean, C. Kupferschmidt, A.G.S.G.C.; Admiral Markham, P. Dist. G.M. Malta; R. F. Gould, P.G.D.; G. L. Shackles, and Sydney T. Klein. Bro. Speth gave notice that at next meeting he would move a grant of 10 guineas in aid of the fund now being organised by Bro. G. Richards, District Grand Master for the Transvaal, for the relief of the brethren in that country; and at the subsequent dinner, a collection was made for the same purpose, and handed over to the District Grand Master. The paper for the evening was by Bro. W. J. Hughan, and dealt with the "York Grand Lodge and its offshoots." In the writer's absence it was read by the Secretary. The paper treated the subject with the accustomed fullness of knowledge which is always expected in anything emanating from our distinguished brother, and was favourably commented upon and criticised by Bros. Whythead, W.M., Rev. J. W. Horley, and G. W. Speth, who also read a written commentary which had been forwarded by Bro. Dr. W. J. Chetwode Crawley.

A hearty vote of thanks to Bro. Hughan was carried by acclamation, and the lodge was closed in perfect harmony.

Playgoers' Lodge, No. 2705.

The installation meeting of this important lodge was held at the Hotel Cecil, on Tuesday, the 2nd inst. There were present Bros. G. J. Farrington, W.M.; Guy Repton, I.P.M.; W. R. Bennett, S.W., W.M. elect; Geo. Schultz, J.W.; J. H. Gaskin, P.M., Treas.; W. Sparks, Sec.; A. E. Grimshaw, S.D.; George Powell, D.C.; Walter Schröder, I.G.; J. A. Collings, Org.; Carl Hentschel and J. L. Goldstein, Stwds.; Edwd. Terry, P.G. Treas. (hon. member); R. Clay Sudlow, P.G. Std. Br. (hon. member); R. H. Shaw, Maurice Moss, John Hawkins, G. W. Collins, A. J. Anderson, Percy House, J. B. Howard, Louis Harfield, A. W. Warnsley, Christopher Hepper, J. H. Bishop, A. M. Rickards, G. H. Hana, W. L. Butterworth, G. F. Payne, H. W. Payne, A. J. Watson, W. H. Worster, Isidore Newmark, W. G. Chapman, C. E. Loader, J. F. Bridgen, A. R. Moyse, F. Newton, R. J. Sadler, Hy. Cart, R. Findlay, A. Gerson, R. F. Pearce, Ferd. Hess, F. J. Leggett, T. Vagg, Thos. Pescod, Paul Mill, J. Sharpe, John Irwin, H. Vigers, M. T. Newmark, H. A. Cooper, E. J. Hiscock, T. J. Rose, E. Emmanuel, G. J. Baynes, Arthur Wade, A. G. Buttifant, A. Thompson, and T. E. Edmunds, Tyler. Visitors: Bros. T. W. Allsop, 88, 2492; F. G. Russell, 2492; J. G. Seberer, 57; T. W. Hooper, 36; W. F. Fisher, 2163; W. H. George, 538; G. S. Cummings, 2700; G. Cossons, 2696; E. J. Southern, 2696; Lewis Ferguson, 1997; Geo. Fox, 1496; J. Northcott, 2190; T. Blake, 2465; H. H. Bowen, 1365; W. H. Dredsay, 1602; Prof. F. W. Driver, M.A., P.M. 45; J. C. Smith, 1905; H. F. Franks, 2742; C. B. Murless, 2742; E. C. Collings, 211; J. H. Jenks, 8; A. Carpenter, 2536; E. A. Fisher, 569; D. Posener, 185; J. A. Carpenter, 2565; H. Rudd, 1815; W. Icton, 834; J. Mellings, H. C. T. Hunt, 134; B. S. Straus, 1981; J. F. Roberts, 63; A. D. Corri, 2387; A. Leighton, 263; J. W. Harvey, 25; L. Cooke, 2108; H. S. Matthews, 211; W. Lever, 1818; J. Taylor, 1271; C. K. Rayson, 766; W. G. Holloway, 1842; T. Richards, 1572; M. Woolf, 25; P. W. Straus, 705; J. O'Connor, 1707; A. Hughes, 704; C. J. Bush, 2696; F. H. Collingham, 1169; E. W. Beard, 2696; F. A. Zeppenfeld, 538; T. Newton, 784; H. Gerard, 2430; G. S. Genese, 2265; H. Pritchard, 263; A. Grover, 101; H. Wright, 1827; E. Lockwood, 2488; N. Owen, 395; H. Jude, 2648; S. H. Pardon, late 1541; A. S. Fussell, 1816; F. Pollitzer, 1017; Harvey Dyball, 905; and H. Raphael, 2265.

The lodge was opened by the W.M., and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The W.M. elect, Bro. Wm. R. Bennett, P.M., was presented to the Installing Master (the W.M.) by Bro. George Powell, P.M., D.C., and having been obligated and entrusted, the W.M. left the chair, and his place was occupied by Bro. R. Clay Sudlow, P.G. Std. Br., who, at the request of the W.M. elect, performed the rest of the ceremony of installation. Bro. Bennett, being a P.M., was simply invested and placed in the chair by Bro. Sudlow, P.G. Std. Br. The W.M. then invested his officers as follows: Bros. G. J. Farrington, I.P.M.; G. P. A. Schultz, S.W.; W. Sparks, J.W.; J. L. Goldstein, Treas.; Percy House, Sec.; Walter Schroder, S.D.; J. Cohen (absent), J.D.; Carl Hentschel, I.G.; George Powell, P.M., D.C.; M. Moss, A.D.C.; R. H. Shaw, L. Harfield, J. Wontner Smith, and J. Sharpe, Stwds.; and T. E. Edmunds, Tyler. Bro. Sudlow gave the addresses in a masterly and impressive manner. The Secretary read the correspondence. Bro. Edward Terry, P.G. Treas., read a communication from the Grand Secretary relative to the spurious Lodge of Hiram. The W.M. then presented a Past Master's jewel to

the I.P.M., who returned thanks for the honour conferred upon him. The report of the Audit Committee showed that the lodge was in a sound satisfactory condition. The report was adopted and ordered to be entered on the minutes.

"Hearty good wishes" having been given by the visitors present, the lodge was closed.

The brethren adjourned to the Great Hall, where a sumptuous banquet was served. At its conclusion, the W.M. gave the usual toast, "The Queen and the Craft."

"God save the Queen" was sung. "The M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales," was next given, followed by "The M.W. Pro G.M., the Earl Amherst; the R.W. Dep. G.M., the Earl of Warwick; and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past."

Bro. Edwd. Terry, P.G. Treas., replied. He spoke of his experience in lodges in India, and that he naturally felt proud that a lodge bore his name. He had the satisfaction of having initiated his own son into Freemasonry. With regard to the Grand Officers, he could assure the brethren that they had ever the interests of the Craft at heart, and would always be found willing to give assistance, either in counsel or in the active working of the ceremonies. On behalf of the Grand Officers and himself, he begged to thank the brethren.

The daughter of the W.M., Miss Lillian Bennett, gave a very pretty dance, being dressed in a handsome Spanish costume.

Bro. Wallis Arthur gave a comic song, "Ha, ha, ha, he, he, he," which was encored.

Miss Hughes then sang "Scent of the Lilies." This was followed by a selection on the flute from the opera of "Faust," by Bro. Hamilton.

The I.P.M., Bro. Farrington, gave "The Health of the W.M." He said it was the sole privilege, as I.P.M., that he possessed. The W.M. had distinguished himself as W.M. of another lodge. He (the I.P.M.) said he himself was one of the old fossils to be taken down and dusted, used for awhile, and put on the shelf again. There was the old Mason, the young Mason, and the up-to-date Mason. In fact, one who was up to date to everything in Masonry.

Chorus—"For he's a jolly good fellow." Miss Lillian Bennett gave a very pretty Moorish dance—elegantly danced, the measure of the music being well maintained.

A violin solo, by Bro. Percy Pollitzer, which was so much appreciated that, in acknowledgment of the encore, the talented artist gave "Angels guard thee" with great taste and feeling.

The W.M. replied. He said that at that late hour of the evening he would not inflict on the brethren a long speech. He had endeavoured to keep the traditions of Freemasonry—he could not do better than follow in the footsteps of his predecessors—he would conform, in every degree, to the wise regulations of the Craft, and support and guide his actions by them to the utmost of his ability.

"If to my share some condemnation fall, See, little lady, and forgive them all."

(Of course, the "little lady" was his charming daughter). The W.M. then gave the toast of "The I.P.M. and the Installing Master."

Song—Miss Hughes. The Installing Master replied. He said he had initiated 20 members, besides several joining members had been added to the lodge during his year of office, the lodge that year having received £100.

Comic song—"The Mercantile Marine." Song—Mr. Randall Jackson, "The Desert."

The W.M. gave "The Past Masters." He said they were not many, but all good. He associated with the toast Bro. Guy Repton, first P.M. of the lodge, who, in reply, said it was a curious fact he was the only one that evening wearing the Past Master's jewel. The original design was furnished by the present W.M.

Song—Bro. Arthur Grover, "Thoughts and Tears." The toast of "The Visitors" was responded to by Bros. J. H. Jenks, W.M. 8;

Albert Leighton, 263; and Peacock, 1178. Bros. Carpenter, W.M. 2565; and E. C. Collins, 211, were also called on.

Bro. Leighton said: "Seaman in a bay, Danger, urged to pray, 'Help me Lord' he said, 'Do not help the Bear.'"

Comic song—"Halves," Bro. Harry Hall. The W.M. said Bro. Goldstein, the new Treasurer, would look well after the finances of the lodge. The new Secretary, Bro. Percy House, was too well known by all to need any commendation on his part. He knew by experience all the duties of a Secretary, holding at the present time that post in the Playgoers' Club.

Bro. Randall Jackson sang "On the road to Mandelay." The result of the new Charity box was three guineas to the Benevolent Fund. The Treasurer and Secretary replied.

The W.M. gave "The Officers of the Lodge." He said that his officers were a set that any W.M. might feel proud of. The S.W. and J.W. replied.

The Tyler's toast brought a most successful evening to a close.

Royal Naval Lodge, No. 59.

This fine old lodge held its annual meeting for the installation of a new W.M. at Freemasons' Hall on the 8th instant. The lodge's record is certified from 1738, and it is on the list of lodges which by their books have proved an uninterrupted working existence for 100 years. Many of these, like the Royal Naval, are much older, but they receive their warrants as centenary lodges only by proving no hiatus in consecutive working for a century. The Royal Naval is a very old lodge, but, curiously enough, its members never seemed alive to the fact that it was not perfect until 1884, for only then did they apply to Grand Chapter for a charter for a Royal Arch chapter to be attached to the lodge. It is, however, now perfect in that respect, having a Royal Arch chapter in connection with it, bearing the same name and number. The volume of the Sacred Law which lies on the W.M.'s pedestal of the lodge is of the year 1558. There was a representative gathering on the above evening, and the chair was taken by the W.M., Bro. Daniel Mayer (Messrs. Erard and Co.). The other brethren who attended were Bros. H. A. Tobias, J.W.; R. H. Stimpson, P.M., Sec.; H. Copen, J.D.; M. Relph, I.G.; W. B. Abbott, P.M.; W. W. Cooke, A. Gussell, C. J. Lindo, H. Adlam, W. Melville, Weill, W. Newgass, R. C. Ralph, W. B. Clarke, W. Hurst Fjint, George H. Trevor Irwin, E. Apelt, A. M. Berenberg, J. Duncan, W. M. Cook, and George Fry. The visitors were Bros. E. Letchworth, G. Sec.; V. P. Freeman, P.G.D., Prov. G. Sec. Sussex; F. W. Driver, P.M. 45; H. Pearce, P.M., P.P.G.W. Sussex; H. J. Dunaway, F. R. W. Hedges, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.I.G.; D. Gabrielson, P.M. and W.M. 1502; A. W. Reynolds, P.M. 2109; F. S. Thomas, I.P.M. 706; E. R. Cleaton, W.M. 2077; J. Terry, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.B.I.; H. Oppenheimer, 1540; J. M. McLeod, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.I.B.; I. H. Beach, 1563; W. F. McNeil, 2686; and H. Massey, P.M. 619 and 1928.

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Will be sent Carriage Free in the United Kingdom on receipt of remittance.

During the ceremony of installation, which was performed by Bro. Daniel Mayer, W.M., Bro. W. B. Abbott, P.M., acted as S.W.; Bro. James Duncan, P.M., as J.W.; and Bro. Stimpson, P.M., Secretary, as D.C. Bro. Henry Ashur Tobias, P.M. 1502, P.G. Std. Br., was installed as the W.M. for the year, and Bro. D. Mayer received the collar of the Immediate Past Master. The other officers of the lodge for the year were: Bros. William Banister Abbott, P.M., S.W.; Harold Coxen, J.W.; James Duncan, P.M., Treasurer; Robert Henry Stimpson, P.M., Secretary; Michael Pitman Ralph, S.D.; Charles Innes Baillie, J.D.; William Waddington Cooke, I.G.; Cecil Gabriel Lindo, D.C.; Albert Samuel Berenberg, P.M., and William Melville, Stewards; William Adlington, Organist; and S. W. Edgley, P.M., Tyler. At the close of the delivery of the address by Bro. Daniel Mayer, I.P.M., the Worshipful Master presented him, to signify his occupancy of the chair for 1898 and 1899, with the addition of two bars to the P.M. jewel given him last year. He also presented to him an illuminated address in the following words: "Founded 1738. Royal Naval Lodge, No. 59. At the regular meeting of the Royal Naval Lodge, No. 59, held at Freemasons' Hall, London, on December 11, 1899, it was proposed by Bro. R. H. Stimpson, P.M. and Secretary, and seconded by Bro. James Duncan, P.M., and carried unanimously, that an illuminated address be presented at the installation meeting on Jan. 8th, 1900, to Worshipful Brother Daniel Mayer, W.M., as a slight recognition of his services as Worshipful Master for two years 1898 and 1899, and as a token of the esteem and regard in which he is held by the members of the lodge.—(Signed) ALBERT S. BERENBERG, I.P.M.; HENRY A. TOBIAS, J.W.; R. H. STIMPSON, P.M., Secretary."

Bro. Daniel Mayer, in acknowledging the gift, said he could not find words to express his acknowledgment of the great kindness of the brethren in presenting the address to him. He should always look back to the two years during which he had occupied the chair of the lodge as years exceptionally happy and pleasant to him. The cordiality with which the brethren came round him and assisted him in his work gave the lodge the position it held, and he felt on that account that his work had not been in vain. (Applause).

Bro. H. A. Tobias, W.M., then presented to the Treasurer, Bro. James Duncan, P.M., a jewel in recognition of his services to the lodge as a Past Steward for several years.

The lodge work was succeeded by a banquet at the Holborn Restaurant. The toasts proposed were intermingled with music by Mr. Nelson Trueman, Mr. Reginald Davidson, Miss Annie McBride, Mr. G. H. Snazelle, and Bro. Waddington Cooke. The accompanist was Miss Alyce Kent.

The Worshipful Master in the course of the evening informed the brethren that his grandfather was initiated in the lodge, and was the Master in 1806, and that his brother and himself were the only members of the family who belonged to the Craft. He had in his possession a jewel which belonged to his grandfather as Senior Warden.

Acanthus Lodge, No. 2715.

This young lodge met at the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool-street, on the 2nd inst., when there were present Bros. W. A. Finch, P.M., W.M.; W. Fenton-Jones, S.W.; John Fenton-Jones, J.P., J.W.; Charles Steel, P.M., Treas.; W. R. Jeffray, P.M., Sec.; J. M. Bathgate, S.D.; A. S. Croome, Org.; W. J. Rous, acting I.G.; W. Finch, I.P.M.; Henry Cooper, P.M.; W. A. Willis, W. J. Davenport, James T. W. Rous, C. T. Lambert, G. T. Bagnall, W. J. Clarke, R. A. Osman, G. T. G. Wright, and Henry Martin, P.M., Tyler. Visitors: Bros. T. E. Walker, P.M. 1558 and 2528; W. H. Noloth, 2511; and R. T. West, 1744.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, Bro. W. Finch, I.P.M., occupied the chair, and, at the request of the candidate, passed Bro. W. A. Willis to the Second Degree. The W.M. then resumed the chair and initiated Mr. G. T. G. Wright in a most able manner. The ancient charge was given by Bro. W. Finch, I.P.M., in a manner that was perfect. Bro. W. J. Clark, 1531 and 1602, was unanimously elected as a joining member. Letters were read from several of the members regretting their inability to attend through sickness and other causes, and it was resolved that letters of sympathy be sent to those who were absent through illness.

Other business followed, after which the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to one of the usual banquets for which the Great Eastern Hotel is famed.

In brief but eloquent terms, Bro. W. A. Finch, the W.M., gave the usual loyal and Masonic toasts which were duly honoured.

Bro. W. Finch, I.P.M., said that it was a great pleasure and privilege to propose "The Worshipful Master, Bro. W. A. Finch," who was his brother fraternally, but a much closer tie. In performing the ceremony of initiation, they had had an opportunity of seeing what he could do, and he was fully qualified to do the raising, but he (the I.P.M.) had performed that duty at the special request of the candidate. He felt that he would be a great success as Master, and they all wished that he would have a happy and prosperous reign.

In response, Bro. W. A. Finch, W.M., stated that he thought the members would rather listen to those who could amuse than to dry speeches. He was proud to be Master of the Acanthus Lodge, but some said he looked old; anyway, young or old, he would do his very utmost, both in the ritual and at the banqueting table, to make the lodge a big success.

In giving "The Initiate," the W.M. stated that it was the toast of the evening. He had known him for many years, and had always found him a most just and upright man, and he would be a great acquisition to the Craft. He knew he would aspire to go higher, and one day they would see him in the chair and he (the W.M.) hoped to be present on that occasion as it would be very gratifying to him to see his first initiate installed as W.M.

The toast was received with much enthusiasm, and Bro. G. T. G. Wright on rising to respond was well received. He said his best thanks were due to them for the hearty way he had been toasted, and the frequency of it, and for the very kind words of the W.M. If happiness came to him in proportion as that night, it would be happiness indeed. His welcome was like a family matter, as the last born was considered the best of the family. He had not gone far in the Order but he had passed the rubicon, and he earnestly hoped, with their assistance, to become a worthy Mason.

The W.M. gave "The Joining Member, Bro. W. J. Clark," and said that he was a member of two other lodges and was known to most of the members. They were glad to receive him, and he had no doubt that he would make a good and useful member of the lodge.

Bro. Clark responded, remarking that he was thankful to them for having accepted him as a member and he hoped the more they knew him the better they would like him. If at any time he was honoured with a collar he would be grateful and would do his best to promote the interests of the lodge, as he took a great interest in Freemasonry.

The Worshipful Master proposed "The Past Master," and said they had only one in number but he made up in quality as he knew the ritual well, and was Preceptor of the Clapton Lodge of Instruction, which was well known in Masonic circles.

Bro. W. Finch, I.P.M., on rising to respond, met with a very hearty reception. He thanked the W.M. for his kind expressions and the members for their hearty greeting. He was proud to have been the first W.M. because it stamped him as father of the lodge, and he was gratified that his son, the W.M., was his successor and he hoped some day to see his son's son go into the chair. They were a small lodge but they claimed to be a good one, as they were careful whom they received as initiates and joining members.

At the request of the W.M., Bro. Charles Steel, P.M., submitted the toast of "The Masonic Charities," which he did in eloquent terms, urging the members to give liberally to the three noble Institutions.

The W.M. proposed "The Visitors," observing that they were few in number, but were distinguished, and on behalf of the lodge he gave them a hearty greeting, with a wish that they would come again, as a lodge was greatly improved by having visitors. He mentioned the name of each visitor, and asked them all to respond.

Bro. T. E. Walker, P.M., responded, congratulating the W.M. on his excellent working, and having such good officers. He had visited many lodges, but had never seen better working than he had witnessed that evening.

Bro. W. H. Noloth also acknowledged the toast, and said that he was indebted to Bro. Charles Steel, P.M., for having spent such a pleasant night, and he hoped some day to become a joining member of the lodge.

Bro. R. T. West also responded. The toasts of "The Treasurer and Secretary," and "The Officers," having been honoured, the Tyler's toast brought the happy and successful proceedings to a close.

Bros. A. S. Croome, R. A. Osman, W. J. Rous, W. Fenton-Jones, and W. R. Jeffray, vocally and otherwise entertained the brethren.

Fellowship Lodge, No. 2535.

This eminently successful lodge started the new year in an appropriate manner on the 1st inst., at the Frascati Restaurant, Oxford-street, W., by a regular lodge meeting, which was well attended. Bro. W. Thomas, I.P.M., in the regrettable absence of the W.M. through illness, occupied the chair, supported by Bros. J. Welford, P.M., G. Std. Br., Treas.; James Stephens, P.M., P.D.G.D.C., Sec.; B. Carter, S.W.; W. H. Making, P.M., J.W.; W. H. G. Rudderforth, P.M., S.D. (who was congratulated on his return from illness); S. Hussey, P.M., J.D.; W. J. Batho, P.M., I.G.; B. A. Griffin, P.M.; W. Grosutt, O. Schuler, P. S. Schuler, H. S. Schuler, and others. Visitors: Bros. Rev. R. Smart, P.M. 489; H. W. Chawner, 2728; H. H. Dean, 1922; W. S. Knott, 1539; F. A. Heymer, 1607; H. W. Parker, W.M. 2728; J. Humphries, 1658; F. E. Shedd, 507 (Rochester, N.Y.); R. Cope, 2361; W. Crosson, W.M. 1658; S. R. Brewer, H. R. Ecker, 272; W. Baddick, 2150; S. R. Walker, P.M. 733; A. Sargent, 55; W. W. Lee, P.M.; and others.

The minutes were confirmed, and Bro. J. Stephens, P.D.G.D., raised Bro. E. Walter to the Third Degree. Bro. W. Thomas, I.P.M., then passed Bros. Flatman, Chawner, Potter, and Maddison, to the Second Degree, and initiated Messrs. C. E. Schuler, F. Kissel, E. C. Phillips, and E. Howe into Freemasonry. With such exponents of the ritual in the chair it is almost superfluous to add that the working was an enjoyable treat. Bro. B. Carter, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M., and in a few well-chosen phrases expressed his thanks for the honour. He could not expect to fill the chair with the grace and dignity of his predecessors, but with the co-operation of the members and the assistance of the officers he looked forward to a certain measure of success. Bro. J. Welford, G. Std. Br., was re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. Edwards Tyler. It was the Secretary's melancholy duty to refer to the death of Bro. E. L. Valeriani, P.G.S.B., P.M., to whose merits as a Mason and to whose charitable disposition he paid an eloquent tribute. The death of Bro. Robert Morgan was also mentioned, and the usual resolution of sympathy with the relatives was passed in both cases.

After lodge, hospitality was dispensed at the banquet table in a manner well worthy of a lodge bearing the name of Fellowship, and the usual toasts were honoured.

Bro. James Stephens, P.D.G.D.C., replied for "The Grand Officers," and said that when one reflected that there were about 130,000 brethren on the roll, and that it was only in the power of the M.W.G.M. to give 16 collars annually, it spoke volumes that a lodge such as theirs should in the short space of four years have five G. Officers associated with it. Having regard to the fact that the Grand Master was the heir apparent to the throne of their vast empire, it was imperative that the higher offices in Grand Lodge should be held by men in the highest positions. He should never forget when, four years ago, Lord Roberts was invested as S.G.W., the cheers that went up in Grand Lodge. It was only right that such men should be selected as the pillars of the Order. In their own lodge they possessed some of the rank and file, who had worked assiduously for Freemasonry. Bro. Welford, G. Std. Br., had been a Mason for 30 years, and his services justly warranted the appointment in Grand Lodge he had received. He (Bro. Stephens) had ever tried to do his part, and had not shirked his duty since his appointment. Had it not been for the lodge meeting that day he would not have left his house, but he hoped, if they honoured him with their confidence in the future, to continue to do the best he could.

"The Health of the W.M." was given in cordial terms by Bro. Thomas, I.P.M., who expressed the regret of all present that Bro. Rogers was laid up with influenza. The W.M. had telegraphed "the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak: happy New Year to all," which showed how much he appreciated being W.M. of this lodge.

Bro. James Stephens, P.M., P.D.G.D.C., proposed "The Health of Bro. W. Thomas, I.P.M.," who occupied the chair. A more outspoken and a more genuine man it had never been his good fortune to meet. During Bro. Thomas's year they had one of the proudest and happiest the lodge had known.

Bro. W. Thomas, I.P.M., replied. He had said before in this lodge that no toast should be necessary to a brother who merely discharged his duty. As I.P.M., in the absence of the W.M., it was his duty to take the chair, but it was not till late the previous Saturday that he knew the W.M. would be unable to preside. He asked the Secretary to work the Third Degree, and Bro. Stephens did it without a hitch and without any prompting for a single word. In that delightful lodge—the Fellowship—they were more than a band of brothers, for he did not know any lodge where he had received such kindness and hospitality during his year of office. There approval for doing what was only his duty would be an incentive to enhance and increase the reputation of the lodge.

The I.P.M. having given the toast of "The Initiates," Bro. J. Stephens paid a very graceful compliment by proposing "The Health of Bro. O. Schuler," whose third son had been initiated that evening, cordially congratulating him upon having three sons as members of the lodge, and thanking him for the honour conferred upon the lodge by proposing them in it.

Bro. O. Schuler replied. The toast of "The Visitors" was acknowledged by Bros. Rev. R. Smart, P.P.G. Chap. Devon; Capt. Chawner, and S. R. Walker, P.M.

Other toasts were given. The musical entertainment was well rendered by Miss Florence Ogilvy, Miss Elsa Maude, and Bros. Wills Page, J. Sandbrook, and H. L. Cooke.

Yarborough Lodge, No. 633.

The installation meeting of this lodge was held at the Grand Hotel, Manchester, on Wednesday, the 6th ult. Present: Bros. S. G. Isherwood, W.M.; W. W. D. Firth, P.P.G.C., I.P.M. and Chap.; J. R. Phillips, S.W.; T. H. Crippin, J.W.; J. F. Sallon, P.M., Treas.; A. C. Wilson, P.M., P.G.D.C., Sec. and Char. Rep.; T. A. G. Wilson, P.M.; J. Hall, S.D.; W. H. Houldsworth, J.D.; F. H. Davidson, P.M., D.C.; J. S. Heywood, I.G.; E. H. Smith, Stwd.; Louis Donald; T. H. Shallcross, Org.; Wm. Robertson, S. E. Bayley, R. E. Collinge, G. E. Ross, and I. Thompson, Tyler. Visitors: Bros. Arthur Temple, P.M. 1064; F. R. Clarke, P.M. 322; J. M. Moss, P.M. 1161, P.G.S.B.; R. H. Percival, 1170; C. D. Cheetham, P.M. 993, P.P.G.W.; J. H. Grimwood, P.M. 1387, P.G. Org.; and E. P. Hetherington, J.D. 2447.

The lodge having been opened and the minutes read and confirmed, the Treasurer's statement of accounts was passed. Bro. John Rowbotham Phillips was duly obligated as W.M. elect, and a Board of Installed Masters being formed he was installed in the chair of K.S. by Bro. Archie C. Wilson, P.G.D.C. The W.M. then appointed his officers as follows: Bros. T. H. Crippin, S.W.; John Hall, J.W.; J. F. Sallon,



AMONG THE LEADING BRANDS OF

CHAMPAGNE
Blankenhorn's "SPORTSMAN" EXTRA DRY,

ENJOYS A REPUTATION OF A QUARTER-OF-A-CENTURY.

London Offices—18, CULLUM STREET, LONDON, E.C.

P.M., Treas.; A. C. Wilson, Sec. and Charity Representative; F. H. Davidson, D.C.; J. S. Whitley, W.M. 1730, A.D.C.; W. H. Houldsworth, S.D.; J. S. Heywood, J.D.; T. H. Shallcross, Org.; E. H. Smith, I.G.; A. R. Albert, S. E. Bayley, R. E. Collinge, and W. E. Hodge, Stwds.; and I. Thompson, Tyler. A letter was read from Bro. Royds, D.P.G.M., expressing regret at not being able to be present.

After the installation the brethren celebrated the Festival of St. John. Bro. Grimwood added to the enjoyment of the evening by his funny sketches, recitations, &c. Bro. Firth sang "The Absent-Minded Beggar," and afterwards made a collection for the A.M.B. Fund, which amounted to 32s., and this was increased by 13s. being added from the Charity box collection in lodge, making £2 5s. At the November meeting one guinea was collected for the *Daily Telegraph* Fund.

Among the usual toasts "The Prov. G. Officers" was given, to which Bro. Cheatham, P.P.G.W., replied in a very interesting speech.

All Souls Lodge, No. 170.

The installation meeting of the above lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Weymouth, on the 3rd inst. The lodge having been opened, Bro. Nelson Bowes was installed as W.M., and appointed the following as his officers: Bros. B. Morris, I.P.M.; E. L. W. Chave, S.W.; S. S. Milledge, J.W.; Rev. J. A. Miller, P.P.G. Chap.; Jno. A. Sherren, P.P.S.G.D., Treas.; E. H. Wiseman, Sec.; F. Fairey, S.D.; E. Groves, J.D.; W. B. Morgan, P.P.G. Supt. of Works, D.C.; J. T. Lovell, Org.; J. H. C. Devenish, I.G.; A. Graham, P.P.J.G.W., C. E. E. Mercer, and E. L. N. Pridmore, Stwds.; J. Old, Tyler; and Z. Milledge, P.P.J.G.W., Charity Steward.

After the business connected with the lodge had been transacted, the installation banquet took place at the Royal Hotel, Bro. T. H. Vinnicombe, the proprietor, providing a first-class spread.

St. Martin's Lodge, No. 510.

The annual meeting and installation festival of the above lodge was held recently at the Masonic Hall, Liskeard. Bro. John Cleave, S.W., was installed as W.M. by Bro. W. H. Stanton, P.P.J.G.W., assisted by the following Installed Masters: Bros. R. A. Courtney, C. Venning, J. Harris, R. H. Williams, W. Hammond, O. Colmer, R. Faul, W. H. Huddy, A. E. Morcom, Hallett, E. Mallett, J. B. Kerswill, P.M. 1130; J. Edwards, W.M. 557; J. Harris, W.M. 920; and J. T. Baker, P.M. 1151. After the ceremony had been ably carried out by Bro. Stanton, the newly-appointed W.M. appointed and invested his officers as follows: Bros. A. W. Vining, I.P.M.; A. Hancock, S.W.; C. D. Smith, J.W.; the Rev. Haine Selin, M.A., Chap.; John Harris, Treas.; R. A. Courtney, P.M., Sec.; A. H. Wenmouth, S.D.; J. Gilbert, J.D.; J. Harris, P.M., D.C.; H. Wills, Org.; A. H. Philp, I.G.; I. Ough and P. S. Friend, Stwds.; and A. E. Orford, Tyler.

The annual dinner was subsequently held at Weeb's Hotel.

The W.M. presided, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were received and duly honoured.

Letters of regret were received from Bros. P. Colville Smith, P.P.G.M.; W. J. Hughan, P.S.G.D. Eng.; B. F. Edyvean, P.G.S.; W. Symons, P.P.G.D.C.; G. P. A. Glencross, P.P.S.G.W.; J. Newland, P.P.G. Supt. of Works; J. F. Childs, P.P.G. Reg.; the W.M. of 330, Bodmin; and the W.M. and Wardens of 856.

The visitors were Bros. W. Pearn, J.W. 557; J. Oliver, S.W. 970; W. May, S.W. 1130; W. W. Winter, S.W. 330; T. D. Lander, J.W. 330; and J. Johns and W. Rowe, 70, Colorado.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

The Quarterly Court of Subscribers to the above Institution was held on Thursday at Freemasons' Hall, Bro. A. C. Spaul, P.G. Std. Br., in the chair. There were also present Bros. A. W. Duret, C. Pulman, H. A. Tobias, H. Massey, A. J. Thomas, and F. R. W. Hedges, P.G.S.B., Sec.

After the usual opening formalities,

Bro. HEDGES announced that the 112th Anniversary Festival of the Institution would be held on May 16th (and not on May 9th as previously arranged), and that Bro. the Earl of Dartmouth, R.W. Dep. G. Master for Staffordshire, would preside on that occasion, and that Bro. the Earl of Lathom, Prov. G. Master for West Lancashire, had kindly consented to preside at the Festival of 1902.

Bro. SPAUL said he had a piece of sad business to bring before the brethren. That morning the office had been informed of the death of one of the children of the Institution, Gwendoline Mary Wessendorff, who went for her holidays and died of diphtheria on the 8th inst., in Tooting Hospital. There was a letter from Bro. Henry Simons from Swansea, saying that the child's mother was in very poor circumstances and utterly unable to bear the funeral expenses.

It was, after a short discussion, decided that Bro. Hedges should make further enquiry, and make such arrangements as he thought proper, and Bro. Simons' letter was referred to the General Committee.

The Committee next resolved to admit to the Institution, consequent upon the above-mentioned death, the highest unsuccessful candidate at the election of October, 1899.

Bro. H. A. TOBIAS said that three weeks ago this child's mother died, so that the girl was really left destitute.

The Committee afterwards adopted the following recommendation of the General Committee: "That the 17 candidates remaining from the last election, together with the 16, whose petitions have been since approved, be placed upon the list of candidates for the April election and that 17 vacancies be declared."

A cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the proceedings.

THE K.T. RITUAL.

"PRECEPTOR" ADVOCATES THE ADOPTION OF THE AMERICAN RITUAL.

Outside the United States there are less than 5000 Knights Templar, located exclusively in Great Britain and her colonies. In England, Ireland, and Scotland, the ceremonies agree upon the essentials; but no attempt at uniformity in work has ever been enforced by statute. In Canada the ceremonies are somewhat similar to that practised in the Mother Country, but we have "innovated" to the extent of adopting the American modernism, known as the Red Cross Degree as a preliminary to, or requisite for Templar ceremonies. Eminent authorities on Templar ritualism, agree in the opinion that both in England and Canada the ceremonies need revision and re-arranging to conform to the traditions and customs of ancient and modern chivalric Orders, but we all admit the superiority of our work, when compared with ceremonies exemplified by our American fratres under the name of the Templar Degree.

Since this matter was first discussed in the *Freemason* in conjunction with a number of eminent knights in Canada, I have made a study of the question, and while all admit the correctness of the position taken by

your paper, yet I hold that the only solution of the problem lies in the direction of adopting the American work and thus unify ritualistically the K.Ts. on this continent. I also believe that Canadian Templars—so long as they adhere to their present ritual—will continue non-progressive, and that, having adopted the U.S. Red Cross Degree and the American uniform, they might as well assimilate the work, by also adopting the American Templar Degree. If the above views obtain to any large extent, why not test the feeling of Great Priory in Kingston next year, and in the meantime discuss the matter in the various Preceptories? At the proper time instruct the representatives how to vote upon this question, so that no snap verdict can be rendered and further trouble and unrest caused. During the winter months the various Preceptories might spend a profitable hour in discussing this question of ritual. I am confident that tinkering with our ritual in the past has not produced results beneficial to the Order of the Temple, and this has been largely due to the fact that the revisers were, with few exceptions, not qualified to discharge the duties, and from the further fact that they proceeded on the wrong lines, and modelled the ceremonies on Blue Lodge work. I would respectfully suggest that every Preceptory in Canada discuss the following questions:

1st. Shall we re-arrange our present ceremonies by making one Degree out of our present three Templar ones?

2nd. Shall we adopt the American Templar Degree, and thus assimilate ritualistically, the Order of the Temple on this continent?

There is no rush of work in any of our preceptories to prevent at least one meeting being set apart to consider the above questions. It would be a campaign of education and instruction to many knights who have received the Degrees simply because they were Degrees qualifying for the Shrine.—*Freemason* (Toronto).

Instruction.

ISLINGTON LODGE, No. 1471.

The usual weekly meeting was held on Tuesday, the 9th inst., at the Cock Tavern, Highbury, when there were present Bros. J. E. Thomas, W.M.; S. Cloud, S.W.; H. B. Harding, J.W.; W. Hancock, P.M., Preceptor; C. M. Coxon, P.M., P.P.G.D. Herts, Treas.; J. Duncan, P.M., Sec.; C. C. Renaud, S.D.; D. Taylor, J.D.; W. J. Townsend, I.G.; C. T. Rayner, P.M.; J. Birks, P.M.; A. Oliver, P.M.; R. E. Maskall, E. Lucas, E. P. Fischer, F. H. Johnson, C. Noel, C. Bone, and A. E. Turner.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes read and confirmed. The ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. Fischer being the candidate. The W.M. vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Renaud, when the ceremony of raising was rehearsed, Bro. Noel being the candidate. Bro. A. E. Turner was elected a member of the lodge. Bro. Johnson was elected W.M. for the ensuing week, and appointed his officers in rotation. The lodge was then closed.

The Craft Abroad.

DISTRICT MARK GRAND LODGE OF JAMAICA.

A special communication of the above Dist. G. Lodge was held at Sussex Hall, Kingston, Jamaica, on the 16th ult., and opened by Bro. C. L. Campbell, P.M. 242 and 368, who stated that the Dist. G. Lodge was called for the purpose of installing Bro. Emanuel Xavier Leon, P.M. 242, W.M. 368, P.S.G.D., as Dist. G. Mark Master of Jamaica.

Before proceeding with the installation, a tribute of respect was paid to the memory of the late Bro. J. W. Whitbourn, P.G.O., D.D.G.M.M., who died on the 23rd September last. Resolutions of regret and condolence were passed and recorded on the minutes.

Bro. Campbell then proceeded to instal the Dist. G. Master according to ancient form, after which the Dist. G. Officers were appointed and invested as follows:

Bro. O. Delgado, 242	...	...	...	Dist. S.G.W.
" C. L. Campbell, 240 and 368.	...	...	...	Dist. J.G.W.
" C. M. Sherlock, 240	...	...	...	Dist. G.M.O.
" A. H. Jones, 42	...	...	...	Dist. S.G.O.
" C. T. Burton, 240	...	...	...	Dist. J.G.O.
" Rev. G. C. Linton, 368	...	...	...	} Dist. G. Chaps.
" Rev. R. Harding, 368	...	...	...
" Thomas Briscoe, jun., 240	...	...	...	Dist. G. Treas.
" R. A. Walcott, 368	...	...	...	Dist. G. Reg.
" F. G. Sale, 242	...	...	...	Dist. G. Sec.
" C. W. Tait, 42	...	...	...	Dist. S.G.D.
" Wm. Duff, 42	...	...	...	Dist. J.G.D.
" C. McL. Keer, 240	...	...	...	Dist. G.I. of W.
" G. E. Burke, 240	...	...	...	Dist. G.D.C.
" W. R. Ryder, 240	...	...	...	Dist. A.G.D.C.
" W. L. Mudon, 42	...	...	...	Dist. G.S.B.
" L. C. Hollar, 242	...	...	...	Dist. G. Std. Br.
" E. Moraud, 240	...	...	...	Dist. G. Org.
" R. A. W. Holwell, 42	...	...	...	Dist. A.G. Sec.
" G. P. Myers, 242	...	...	...	Dist. G.I.G.
" F. A. McCulloch, 240	...	...	...	} Dist. G. Stwds.
" Dr. A. A. Robinson, 368	...	...	...
" J. Cox, 240	...	...	...
" C. O. Magwan, 42	...	...	...
" J. F. Ward, 240	...	...	...	Dist. G. Tyler.

The regular meetings of Dist. G. Lodge were fixed for the third Thursday in January and July in each year.

The contributions to Dist. G. Lodge were also fixed.

The DIST. G. MASTER intimated that he had been invited by Bro. the Right Hon. the Earl of Euston, Pro G. Master, to act as a Steward at the Grand Mark Benevolent Festival, to be held in July next, and he would be glad to get the support of the lodges and the brethren in the district.

The Dist. G. Lodge having been closed, the Dist. G. Master invited the brethren present to a banquet, at which the usual Masonic toasts were drunk.