

I sincerely regret that Buckingham Lodge, Uxbridge, from reports of D. D. O., Bro. Edmett, has become extinct, although the worthy brother has done all in his power to keep it alive. I would therefore recommend the Executive to collect the rituals charter, books, etc.

I have also attended all meetings of the Executive and Beneficiary Boards, making a total of 74 meetings, besides a large number of an unofficial character. I regret that the time at my disposal did not permit me also, on the score of expense, to visit all the lodges of our Order.

I would strongly urge upon you the adoption of the recommendation of the Beneficiary Board, viz.: the payment of 25 cents to sub-lodge secretaries for each application accepted by the Board, such sum to cover any postage account, etc., they may incur, also 25 cents for medical examination of application forms for approval by the Board. I also desire to call your attention to the scheme submitted by Lansdowne Lodge, and ask for it a careful consideration at your hands. I am, however, afraid that it would prove too costly for our members.

During the year I have instructed the R. W. G. Secretary to obtain the necessary supplies, which has been done with a due regard to economy. I also instructed the G. S. to issue forms asking certain questions from lodges as to the bonds given by their officers, how their funds are invested, and how much money they have paid to the Grand Secretary. I regret to say the answers given have not been satisfactory, and I would strongly urge upon the G. L. delegates, when they return home, to see that the Constitution is carried out (where it is not already done) in their respective lodges, that their funds are properly invested in the names of trustees, and that their officers are placed under bonds. In some instances the G. S. books show more money received from lodges than what they have stated upon the forms.

I am pleased to note that the Grand Secretary has, by my suggestion, compiled a statement in his financial report showing all money received by him from subordinate lodges, thus enabling all secretaries to compare their accounts as to their correctness. Whilst, upon the subject of bonds, I would most respectfully inform this grand body that upon the receipt of the funeral benefit money from subordinate lodges I at once appointed Bro. Ald. J. C. Swait, of St. George's Lodge, and Bro. Dr. W. W. Ogden, of Middlesex Lodge, as trustees for that particular fund, for which they gave bonds. The money was then banked in their joint names, and, as trustees have never been appointed for the Grand Lodge funds; I would respectfully suggest to my successor that all monies passing through the Grand Lodge should be banked, and separate accounts kept by the Grand Secretary. The same trustees would do if thought desirable.

Before closing my report I sincerely desire to thank the Grand Officers associated with me for their valuable assistance and advice, also to P. G. P. Bro. Caddick who, from his legal knowledge, has rendered me valuable aid. I owe a deep debt of gratitude also to our D. D. officers and members of our lodges who have at all times shown their loyalty to our Order and to myself personally. I beg to return them my heartfelt thanks.