

Bad habits are no recommendation. Competition is too keen for anyone to handicap himself with a needless habit. Many a boy and man has gotten a position because he did not smoke cigarettes or pipes; but we have yet to hear of the first one that got a position because he smoked, chewed, drank, or gambled.

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The widow of a late brother is right when she says the benefit money "does not ease the heart-ache or help the loneliness, *but it takes a great weight off my hands.*" Yes, and there are too many widows with not only the aching heart, but weighted hands, because a husband did not have a benefit certificate for one or more thousands in the I.O.F.

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In this issue we give portraits and brief biographical sketches of Bro. W. B. Sanders, H.C.R., Central Ontario, and of Bro. C. Day Clark, M.D., H.C.R., of Eastern Ontario. Both have recently been called to the highest position in their respective jurisdictions. Their ability and experience justify the expectation that they will give a good account of themselves.

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"Is any brother out of employment?" is a question that is asked at every court meeting. It is usually asked, and that is all. If a brother is out of employment he does not care to say anything about it. The question should be more than a form. Fraternity implies doing for one another as the circumstance may require and our ability enables us to. There is nothing better in life than helping those who need.

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We only know of one way of getting members, and that is going after the man that ought to be a member and is not, and keeping after him. In nine cases out of ten you will get him to join the Order when you point out to him the many benefits that he will enjoy by belonging to the I.O.F. Men are not looking for insurance and membership in fraternal societies; they wait, at least 99 per cent. of them, till you hunt them up.

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"What in the world will I do if my husband is taken?" we heard a distressed wife say the other day as she watched by the bedside of her sick husband. We found on enquiry that there was no insurance, and no accumulation of either money or property. A delicate wife and several little children were wholly unprotected in the event of the death of the bread-winner. Why will not men be wise to-day and secure for themselves and their families the protection the I.O.F. affords?

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Quite frequently we receive communications from courts in which they wish to appeal to the

membership of the whole Order for aid to build a court-room, or for assistance for a distressed brother. We regret to be obliged to decline giving such communications the publicity of our columns. If one court can make such an appeal it would establish a precedent for the other 2,700 to make a similar appeal, and calls would be endless. Excepting in extreme cases courts must be self-reliant.

### Thanksgiving.

Hard things have been said of ingratitude; it is truly the "unlovely sin." To receive good without one feeling of thankfulness, or one word of appreciation, is proof of a cold and calloused heart. Thankfulness is a Christian grace. That it is as desirable as it is beautiful is evidenced by the frequency with which we are exhorted—"In everything give thanks." Happy are they who count among their mercies the "thankful heart" that tastes the least gift with joy. Following established custom, the Supreme Chief has issued his proclamation, directing that the members of the Order, in their organized capacity as courts, shall, on Sunday, June 20th, attend a convenient place of worship to render thanks to Almighty God for the mercies vouchsafed to them as individuals and as members of a strong, powerful and benevolent organization. The seemliness of this is evident. The Order claims as its corner-stones the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man; to meet in social fellowship for the worship of the Universal Father is most appropriate. The special grounds for thanksgiving are set forth in the proclamation that appears in another column. We are sure that our members will gladly observe the twenty-third anniversary of the Order by participating in a religious service of praise and thanksgiving, and almsgiving, on the 20th. The high physical, intellectual and moral standard of our membership is invariably noticed at the anniversary service.

### A Close Run.

Three High Court jurisdictions, Central Ontario, Eastern Ontario and New York, are, as will be seen from this month's report, of almost equal membership, with 8,800, 8,777 and 8,770 respectively, a difference of only 30 between the highest and the lowest. New York, of course, with its wider area and larger population has an immense advantage, and is sure to come still more prominently to the front. Ontario, as a whole, will for many years retain first place, as the membership is nearly three times that of any other Province or State where the Order is established. A friendly rivalry between the High Courts sustains the interest and builds up the Order.