

fortunate that man has two ears. Men presume upon their wealth of ears. Not everything that flaps is an ear— not everything that stares is an eye. "O, foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not." We sometimes think that committees of inquiry do not enquire sufficiently about the seeing and hearing of candidates for Masonry, for surely if these senses were both as acute as they ought to be, we should have fewer (practically) deaf and dumb Masons.

Of course, it is impossible for a Grand Master to personally visit a tithe of the lodges in his jurisdiction—hence he must largely do this work by Deputy—by District Deputy Grand Masters, or other authorized instructors. The plan is an excellent one, but it does not work, because so often the Deputy is either careless or uninstructed. To be able to teach, he must first learn. Learn what? To do the work, all the work—and to do it accurately, as officially authorized by the Grand Lodge and Grand Master; and efficiently, so that it is not words, mere words. Words must be made things in Masonry; they must be permeated with ideas, and expressed impressively and forcibly. How many Masons are marred in the making! If the W. M., or S. W., or J. W.—whoever it is that occupies the Master's station—was presenting a material stone for a material edifice, such a stone as is symbolized by the half-made piece of work that sometimes is sent out of a lodge-room, only fit to be cast out among the rubbish, he would get his discharge forthwith. Not a few Masonic officers merit such a discharge. Those who will occupy official station, and won't learn to properly perform the necessary duties thereof, should be placed where they belong, on the floor.

The duty of a District Deputy, then, is, (1) to learn all the work; (2) to visit every lodge in his district,

several times a year, if possible, and once, if possible or not; have the officers perform the work before him, correct their errors, then perform it correctly himself; and call the officers together subsequently in the lodge-room for personal instruction. Any brother who is not willing to do this, should not be willing to assume to be a District Deputy.

A Grand Visitation by a Grand Master, accompanied by his Grand Officers, is an important means toward the end of accuracy, uniformity and impressiveness of lodge work, but it cannot supply the place of the labors of a District Deputy. At most, it can only supplement those labors. If there has been gross carelessness and neglect, all that the Grand Master can do, is to expose to the brethren their ignorance, which is pleasant to neither party. If there be a fair amount of accuracy in the work, a Grand Visitation is most salutary. It inspires the brethren, excites their enthusiasm, wakes up the forgetful, brings out the indifferent, enhances the interest taken by all in Masonic matters, strengthens the "Mystic Tie" which unites Freemasons in a common brotherhood, diffuses light in the craft, and promotes those strong social feelings which should be inseparable from Freemasonry. That Grand Master is to be envied who has a conscientious, industrious, intelligent, and efficient staff of Grand Officers, and District Deputy Grand Masters. Brethren, of whatever station, let us all do our duty wherever we stand, and then it will be well with Masonry as a whole in the jurisdiction; well with the subordinate lodges, and well with ourselves as individual Masons. Then the work will be "improved," not by adding to it, or taking from it, but by giving it just as it authoritatively is, correct in form, and as a result, unvarying in the several lodges, and impressive in manner, thereby forcibly teaching all what the words express.—*Keystone.*