

the sign and see the thing signified. This brings us to the consideration of what is, after all, the real gist of advancement in Freemasonry.

All the forms and ceremonies of Masonry are shells, every one covering a kernel. This kernel is always some vital truth, practical truth, interesting truth, Masonic truth. It is what Masonry exists for, what it teaches, what has kept it alive through the centuries. Hollow forms could not keep it alive a year. Indeed, no single feature of its wonderful composite could ensure its perpetuity. It is a beautiful system, of morality, of instruction, of entertainment, all combined. Suppose a brother "goes it strong" on its morality alone, or its instructive features alone, or its conviviality alone—he is rightly judged to be one-sided, cranky, not appreciating the fullness of Masonry. He advances backward. He gives up the whole, and accepts a part. All of us may value some one feature more than another—that is, some one of these may minister to us more benefit or pleasure than another, but we do not ignore the rest. The young brother, and some who are older, never advance far in Masonry because they mistakenly think that they see through it at the beginning. You can never see through it. Its capacity to instruct and delight the thinking mind is endless. You cannot outgrow it. So long as you reflect upon what you see enacted in the lodge, chapter or commandery; so long as you study, with the aids which literature gives you, the hidden meaning of all Masonic forms and ceremonies; so long as you "further advance" in the knowledge of what Masonry was and is; so long as you delve in the mines of learning which the cultured brethren of past and present times have opened, and rendered so accessible, and so enjoyable; so long you will not only continue to appreciate the Masonry that you already know, but you may add to your knowledge, year by year, and thus be treasuring up a constantly in-

creasing store of information, which will be a perpetual source of delight and instruction, until time shall be no more. Practically there is thus no limit to advancement in Masonry.—*Freemasons' Chronicle.*

EDITORIAL NOTES.

WITH respect to the recent collection of Masonic medals, emblems, books, and other objects exhibited in the Masonic Hall, Kidderminster, England, a writer in a local journal says:—"I am told that there are only three other such collections in existence. But this differs from them in being the work of a single enthusiast. In an incredibly short space of time, Bro. Taylor, who stands very near the top of the Masonic grades, in this, as in other matters, reveals the tremendous energy with which he is accustomed to work. To accumulate the objects I was permitted to see the other evening, would, by an ordinary man of means and leisure, be considered a sufficient life-work. In the present instance, they have been drawn together from all quarters of the globe by a man whose every hour seems full of business affairs. Apart from any knowledge of, or interest in, Freemasonry, no intelligent man can fail to be struck by the numismatic and bibliographical value of the articles brought together, many of them unique, and all of them scientifically arranged, and forming a bird's-eye view of the history of Freemasonry. To an outsider the craft becomes more intelligible, more impressive, and more worthy of respect in the presence of these eloquent witnesses of the immense interest taken in its teaching and ritual by different generations, nationalities, and ranks now passed away, but whose enthusiasm and convictions are here crystallised for our information, and a record for ages to come. A collection so complete and varied cannot well be estimated pecuniarily, but I am informed that experts have valued it at