

CONCERNING CERTIFICATES.

Our contemporary, the *Triple Link*, says:

"The idea obtains with many lodges that a physician's certificate to the effect that a brother has been sick stops all controversy as to whether or not he is entitled, and the benefits must be paid. It is a very easy thing to procure a certificate of this character from some doctors, and we are glad to note the action of the Grand Lodge of Illinois in a recent appeal case in which it dismisses the appeal of the claimant in the following words: 'The only evidence presented by the appellant is the physician's certificate, and this the committee deem insufficient to sustain the claim.'"

Up to a recent date, here in Canada, we were under the impression that a doctor's certificate was good for all that it recommended. Probably the general confidence still remains unshaken. But recent revelations in a certain insurance case at Whitby, in which one doctor, at any rate, figured in a most unenviable manner, will help to create a suspicion against the members of a noble profession. It was, indeed, a sad spectacle, to see a physician, presumably skilled and cultured, giving evidence before a court that convicted himself of a fraud of the worst kind; and all that he might earn a few hundred dollars. The only redeeming feature of the case is its rarity. It is unlikely that any similar piece of scoundrelism will make its unsightly appearance in this country for another generation.

OTTAWA.

An article on the "unaffiliated," in a late issue of THE DOMINION ODD FELLOW, calls attention to the standing of a large portion of our membership, many of whom drop out from want of interest in our work.

How best to reach, interest, and retain these brothers is worthy our closest consideration.

The loss of an old member is at times very little thought of, quite overlooking the fact that the old members are the foundation of our lodges. The suggestion made to form a local association of the unaffiliated, with certain rights and privileges, appears to be about the best outside of dual membership.

The latter is, I think, the true solution of this question, and will in time prevail.

Representation on joint committees—without responsibility—would hardly meet with success, inasmuch as their voting power would be questioned when it would directly or indirectly lead to the expenditure of lodge funds; and without such voting power it would be rather empty honours.

On the other hand dual membership, with or without pecuniary benefits, would allow the honours of office and the responsibility of membership.

A large number of our members who change their residence neglect to report

to the lodge nearest their new address; but if sickness overtakes them they expect the same attendance as more active members. They appear to be unaware of the fact that "any such members so failing to report shall not be entitled to affiliation with the Order nor to attention from any lodge." Such report should be made inside thirty days after taking up his residence; and when requested by the lodge to which he has reported he shall watch with the sick who, like himself, are away from home. For the benefit of such members it may be said that such legislation shall not be construed so as to hinder or prevent a lodge from acting if they see fit.

NEWSLETS.

Ottawa Lodge, No. 224, celebrated, on the 26th Nov., its fifteenth anniversary by an "At Home" in Odd Fellows' hall. A charming programme of vocal and instrumental music, interspersed with humorous readings and recitations, had been arranged, and at 8.30 Noble Grand Fraser assumed the chair, having Grand Senior Warden Bell on his right and Grand Herald Gallagher on his left. It was 10.15 before this very enjoyable portion of the programme was concluded. Supper was then served in the adjoining hall, after which the second portion of the programme commenced—dancing. The "wee sma' hours ayont the twal" were well in before the happy couples dispersed, both pleased and fatigued after the evening's enjoyment.

The different branches of the Order will treat the children to a Xmas tree.

The District Committee have issued a circular to the officers and members of the subordinate lodges, a copy of which I enclose by permission of the Committee.

The sympathy of the membership has been extended to Bro. Cockburn, of Ottawa Lodge, on the death of his brother, late bugler of the Governor-General's Foot Guards. The burial took place on Wednesday with military honours. Sergt. Shattuck (of Rockliffe Lodge) was in charge of artillery sub-division, the remains being borne to the grave on a gun carriage. The band of the regiment headed the cortege.

In my last, where I wished to say "communities," the compositor made me say "committees." The sentence was: "Evidence is not wanting to show how individuals (though not members of our Order) and communities have been drawn towards this work, and, through their munificence, the completion of Homes have been hastened." A. W. C.

GALT.

Waterloo Lodge is not dead; not even sleeping. It is true, candidates have not been quite so plentiful this year as last (we could scarcely be expected to keep up that gait all the time); but there are

still enough coming forward to keep the boys fairly busy, and they are more than satisfied with the present position and future prospects of old 107.

The new paraphernalia, purchased from the Dominion Regalia Co., of Toronto, at a cost of nearly a thousand dollars, is greatly admired. Our members are almost vain enough to imagine that they have about the finest degree outfit in the Dominion; and, anyway, will be pleased to entertain visitors who think their lodge has a better. The robes reflect credit alike upon the committee who selected them and the manufacturers.

It is hard to say who has the most tasty costume; but certainly Tommy feels prouder in the Outside Conductor's dress, and looks prettier in it than he does in the uniform of the football club after emerging from a Rugby scrimmage.

Bro. C. E. Knowles, P.G., has "went and gone and done it." Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Knowles would be in order were it not for the excessive bashfulness of our ex-Secretary. It is even said that he bribed the foreman at the Electric Light Station to turn off the current on the wedding night.

There has been little sickness of late, only just enough to keep the Visiting Committee in good working trim. Bro. C. Cresswell is no better. Bro. R. Watson is again reported ill. Bro. McDonald, of Hecla Lodge, Michigan, is under the care of our committee, and Bro. D. Shiell is ill at Chicago and under the care of the committee of Home Lodge, of that city.

Our members have learned with sincere regret of the continued illness of our genial Grand Secretary, and at their last meeting passed a suitable resolution thereon.

We were sorry to lose Bro. and Sister Buchanan, who have gone to reside in the Ambitious City. They were both active, energetic and enthusiastic in the work, and will be greatly missed. Our only consolation is that Bro. Buchanan is securing a better situation in Hamilton.

The Camp Degree Team is putting on its harness; and, having obtained a few new pointers on the work, will likely make things hum during the winter months. A missionary visit is contemplated for the near future.

Ivy Rebekah Lodge still keeps up its reputation as a live, progressive part of Oddfellowship. Few meetings are held without an addition being made to its membership. Bro. Geo. Turnbull has been selected as the new Captain of the Degree Staff. He purposes to have the work put on in a manner second to none in this jurisdiction.

Those entitled thereto have received copies of the 1895 Journal. They say the letter-press is clear and distinct, the paper good, and the general get-up neat and tasty. It is quite evident no mistake was made in getting the work done at the office of our own "D.O." CHATTER.