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NOTES.

The members of the C M B A have reason to feel deeply grateful to the Catholic journals in Canada that so ably supported our cause and did so much in the past to further the good work of the association. Without the co-operation of the Catholic press our progress would have been slow indeed, and we hope it can never be said that the members of the C. M. B. A., are ungrateful for this generous support

Five new branches in February Medical Certificates approved in March for seven more, at the following places viz., Kemptville, Ont.; Cap St. Ignace, Que.; L'Avenir, Que.; Battleford, N. W. T.; Prince Albert, N. W. T.; Fraserville, Que., and New Glasgow, N. S. If you know of any place in Canada where you can organize a branch, let us hear from you.

Branch 224, Murray Bay, Que., headed the "honor roll" for the greatest number of initiations in the month of January; and Branch 97, Quebec City, heads the list for the month of February. This speaks well for our Quebec Branches and we hope they will continue the good work.

The Catholic who does not belong to the C. M. B. A. if eligible for membership, is not in accord with the spirit of the times; for this association unites the hearts of our people regardless of conditions of life.

How much happiness and sunshine you are helping to send into desolate homes when you are paying your monthly assessments.

Our association is composed of men of diverse nationalities; yet all have an equal interest in its welfare, and all work for its success although not always agreeing as to how the interest of the association might best be advanced. The C. M. B. A., is a society in which the spirit of tolerance prevails and in which every member is willing to accord to others whatever rights he demands for himself.

The Local Government of New Brunswick has appointed Brother John L. Carleton of St. John, reporter of the Supreme Court. Brother Carleton is a member of the Committee on Laws of the C. M. B. A. of Canada and is one of our most efficient officers. It would be difficult for the Government to select a more competent person.

There is no good reason why Catholics possessing the necessary qualification should hesitate to become member of the C M B A. There are very few men who do not spend annually more, on what is neither necessities nor luxuries, than would be sufficient to keep paid a policy in this association.

There is no reason why our association should not number 30,000 and the reason why it has not attained that figure is due to the apathy of the members. Take the city of Montreal for instance with a population of 300,000 two thirds of which are Catholic; why the membership of that city alone should be at least 3,000 and could be easily that figure if the members would only wake up and do their duty.

It is the bounden duty of the members to attend regularly the meetings of their branch and show by their presence that they have an interest in its welfare.

Officers of branches should see that they conduct the business of their branch in such a manner as would make it a pleasure for members to attend. Meetings should be made interesting; there should be an avoidance at all meetings of anything that might tend to weary the members such as useless debates on points of order, hair splitting on constitutional questions. Some branches are much given to this and in consequence many who would like to attend meetings soon weary of doing so; they may attend occasionally but they make the occasions few and far between.

At a late regular meeting of Branch 25 Montreal resolutions of condolence were passed to Brothers Bernard and Owen Tansoy on the death of their

sister the late Mrs. Drury, to Brother Connaughton on the death of his father the late James Connaughton and also to Brother James Millway a former member of the branch but now a member of Branch 111 of Toronto on the death of his wife. The branch decided to attend Holy Communion in a body on the last Sunday in March. A most successful open meeting of the branch was held in January and the good results which were expected therefrom are beginning to show themselves, two new members were initiated since this meeting and a third is under way, besides applications are being made by several who had attended the meeting; another open meeting after Easter is contemplated. The progress of the branch during 1894 under the Presidency of Brother Patrick Reynolds was most satisfactory. The present occupant of the chair Brother A. D. McGillis is one of Montreal's most successful merchants, and the same energy which characterizes him in his private affairs he imparts in the performance of his duties as head of the branch. In Brother J J Costigan the branch has one of the most competent, energetic, and attentive Secretaries in the association. On the whole the prospects of the branch for 1895 are very bright. The meetings of Branch 26 are always well attended and the members on the whole take a most active interest in its affairs a factor to which may be attributed the prosperity which has attended the branch since its inception in 1889

The Catholic Review says. "The reason why the Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and Sons of Temperance have been condemned by the Church is that their indeterminate oath and their religious ritual make them organizations to which Catholics ought not to belong. With the good they do there is no quarrel. But a Christian is not free to swear away his freedom without limit, nor to take part in rites not provided by his religion."

Every member is familiar with the

obligation each branch takes "to educate members and their families" by means of christian books in plenty etc. This is heard every night from the station of one of the principal officers, and we might ask the brothers in the different branches, how is it carried on in your branch? How long is your branch organized and what effort have you put forth to purchase books treating upon matters that every practical Catholic should know in order to be in a position to answer any questions put to him, regarding the doctrines, rites, ceremonies, and practices of our holy faith? Judging from reports that have come to us, we fear that the answer from many whole districts would be, we have never given that matter any attention, and we regret to say there is no such thing to be found in our branch room as a library of any kind.

If the ten thousand members comprising the C. M. B. A. would only do their duty according to their obligations in this respect what an immense Catholic Truth body they would become and what a power for good in the land. By good reading they would certainly become better citizens and be always ready to do battle for the faith by an intelligent contradiction of the many ridiculous charges that we hear and read of every day. It will be only necessary to call the attention of our brothers who may have neglected to provide these Christian books up to the present, to this important matter, and we are satisfied it will no longer be neglected.

We have no doubt by a strict attention to this business by our members, the clergy who have all along so kindly aided us by their membership and kind words, seeing this not a dead letter, would work still harder with us, and there is not the slightest doubt that many others, when they know we are making in reality a social fraternity of our association as well as a Catholic Insurance body, would fall into line, and give us a foothold in many parishes where now we have none.

It is certainly our duty as soon as possible to furnish the means (good books and literature to educate members and their families in piety, integrity and frugality, also why should we be informed each meeting of the fact.

We shall be pleased to publish the names of branches who have libraries for this purpose and an other information as to the benefits arising from such, and the amount of interest taken in the matter