

ing that the Grand Chancellor has the power to render all kinds of decisions and decisions for each individual case. But the fact is that he is only the servant of the Grand Lodge and subject to its laws and orders.

One year ago, when I accepted the honor conferred upon me as executive officer of this Grand Domain, I stated that I would make every effort to strengthen old lodges rather than to build up new ones. I have made every effort to fulfill that promise, and am justly proud of the advancement of Pythianism in Ohio.

During the year I made 117 official visits.

At the beginning of the administration of your executive officer, I had no conception that there would be so many persons located in villages and cities that would be knocking for admission to our order. Rather than encourage new lodges, I have tried to discourage them. Yet during the year, I have granted twenty-five dispensations for charters for new lodges, all of which, in my judgment, are located where they will be a credit to the roster of the Pythian lodges.

The committee on state of the order fully endorsed all Grand Chancellor Sutphen's official acts in flattering sentences, and their report was adopted unanimously.

Grand Keeper of Records and Seal Beatty says :—

"Notwithstanding the fact that there was a loss by suspension of 3,355, by withdrawals, 619, and by deaths, 309, we have a net gain of 2,115 members, giving us 52,160 January 1, 1895, as against 50,045 January 1, 1894. Six thousand, three hundred and ninety-eight were added to the lodge rosters during the twelve months; unfortunately our ranks were decimated to the extent of over 4,000, most of whom are to be credited to that inexplicable and peculiar agency, suspension. So long as the figures of gain overbalance those of loss, it is not to be supposed we will feel as deeply nor as sensibly on the question as we should, but I am of the opinion this ratio will not always prevail, and then, possibly when too late, there will be more general awakening along this line, only to find, it may be, that the cure has gone beyond reach. The subject is one which is receiving attention in every Grand Lodge, and a successful solution will bring gladness to the hearts of all loyal Pythians. A personal interest in the matter by each member of the subordinate lodge will go far toward attaining this result. Will the experiment be tried?

Our finances in grand and subordinate lodges are in splendid condition. Almost fabulous amounts have been paid by the latter for relief and for funeral benefits, and yet there is increase in assets of \$79,359.97, which are now within a few dollars of one million! Cash on hand is \$5,512.75 in excess of last year, and other items of assets also show substantial gain.

The amount expended for relief was \$105,171.78, and the total assets are \$930,539.59. There is \$20,790.05 in the Grand Lodge treasury of which \$1,874.43 belongs to the "Pythian Home Fund."

Portraits of some of the good-looking officers adorn the journal.

With the names of "John C. Burns, A. P. Butterfield, W. B. Richie," holding up the Fraternal Correspondence report one expects a "good thing," and it is right there, though we "suspect" that "the other two" didn't do much of the work. We will risk one more quotation—from the introduction—re suspensions, and believe it is the key to the remedy :—

"We are of the opinion that, after all, the officer who has the remedy under his control is the Master of Finance, because it has been clearly shown that where this official has accomplished the full measure of his duty the suspensions are only of those who would not settle an account if it were their last day on earth. It is a subject calling for the best thought, and we will all rejoice when a profitable conclusion has been reached."