

I am voicing the opinion of your Executive in stating that we are convinced of the great necessity and importance of an Official Organ, published under the supervision and control of the Executive, in order that our Society may be properly equipped for the work it has undertaken to accomplish.

The matter will come before you in its proper time, and I trust the project will receive your sanction and hearty approval.

*New Lodges Opened and Charters Surrendered.*

The number of new Lodges opened during the year is fewer than in some former years. More Lodges might have been organized, however, but for the restriction in our Constitution, relating to opening no new Lodges in cities.

Your Executive has allowed no opportunity to pass of starting a new Lodge, where a reasonable prospect of success offered.

A complete list of Lodges formed during the year will be found in the Supreme Grand Secretary's Report.

I have to report the surrender of their Charters by three Lodges, viz.: Chesterfield, Avondale and Eddystone, all the members of which, in good standing, have found homes in other Lodges of the Order.

*Printing and Supplies.*

Your Executive called for tenders for Printing and Supplies from the members of the Society who were in the printing business, and we awarded the contract to the lowest bidder in every case. I am pleased to say that the contracts were faithfully carried out by the brethren securing the orders.

The expenditure under this head has been largely in excess of former years, owing to the changes in bookkeeping, rendered necessary by the new Constitution.

New books had to be provided for all the Subordinate Lodge Secretaries, an entirely new set of books for the Supreme Grand Secretary's office, for the Beneficiary Department business, and a full supply of new Constitutions, besides all other supplies and forms.

*Official Visits.*

I have officially visited sixty-four Lodges during the year, besides making many unofficial visits as the occasion offered.