ing the time of refreshment at their meetings in future, instead of Black Botties laid on the Tables, to have Crystal and Silver materials added to the furniture of the Lodge, and after a long discussion on the subject the motion was carried by a majority of the Brethren."

Two Committees were appointed, one to carry out necessary improvements on the building, and the other "to consider the necessity of obtaining new Jewels, as those presently in use, which date from 1769, are out of repair, and to write for price list of same. On 16th May, 1865, patterns of office bearers' Jewels were submitted, and on 16th November a set of 13 was finally purchased at a cost of £21. This set is still in use.

1865.

On 3rd December, 1865, "Bro. Robert Rankin, Inner Guard, explained to the Brethren that a new sword was much required for the use of the Lodge, and that the widow of the late Bro. J. R. Maciver was willing to dispose of a sword in her possession, which belonged to her husband, for the sum of one guinea, which sum the Brethren unanimously agreed should be paid her, and Bro. Rankin was instructed to procure the sword." It was agreed at a meeting on 1st December to provide new Sashes for the office bearers, and see them properly lettered. Bros. Allan Morison, Mal. Macdonald, John Chisholm and Alexander Murray were appointed the Sash Committee. In due time the Committee produced the new set of Sashes, and explained that the lettering of the Sashes was dispensed with by the Committee, as they had ascertained by correspondence with the South that it was not now customary to make them up in that style.

1866.

In the following year a scheme of general repairs upon the building was considered, and the Secretary and Treasurer were deputed to wait upon Mr. Graham M. Thomson, Inspector of the National Bank Buildings, to request his assistance to make out a plan and specification of the repairs "as indicated by the conversation at the meeting." In addition to the painting, papering and ventilating, etc., remitted to their consideration, the committee wished to suggest to the Lodge at their first meeting that the orchestra should be removed, and the main door to the hall heightened and widened. The "orchestra," it may be explained, was a small gallery placed above the centre door of the main hall for the accommodation of the musicians at dances or like functions, access to which was obtained from the upper landing. Mr. Thomson laid his plans and specifications before the Lodge, and it was unanimously agreed that all the repairs therein contained be executed immediately. The following offers were accepted: 1. For Mason work, Roderick Adam. 2. For Plaster work, James Nixon. 3. For Painter work, William Macleod, and 4. For Joiner work, Messrs. George and Malcolm Mackenzie. On October 5th of the same year the Architect, Mr. Graham Maitland Thomson, was admitted a member of the Society. The thorough overhauling of the building at this time necessitated the holding of some of the meetings elsewhere. That on 1st March, 1867, was held in the "Lewis Hotel," then occupied by Bro. Lachlan Ross, a member of the Lodge Fortrose, to whom the thanks of the Brethren were duly accorded, and a sum of money voted to be paid him as a compensation for any loss his ordinary business might have sustained in consequence of the greater part of the Hotel being taken up by the Brethren.

In 1866, at a meeting held on the 2nd March, the practice of passing round the Charity Box, which since then has never been dropped, was initiated. It was moved by Bro. John Chisholm, seconded by Bro. Malcolm Macdonald, and unanimously agreed to, "that a Charity Box should be produced at every future meeting of the Brethren, for those of the Brethren who feel disposed to contribute to the assistance of a distressed Brother. It was accordingly produced, and at the close of the Lodge the sum of one pound, eight shillings and sixpence was found deposited in the Box."

1868.

There is no allusion in the minutes to the working of the Lodge Ritual, or to Lodges of Instruction, until the year 1868, when Bro. Sergeant Craig, a member of "Canongate & Leith, No. 5," and affiliated in Lodge Fortrose on