

brethren see each other, and perhaps exchange nods of recognition in the lodge; the work and business are done and the lodge closed, and the brethren separate. Only a few who are early have any opportunity for conversation with each other, save in the few minutes in which they are preparing for home, after the lodge is closed. Now, if the lodge is called off for refreshment during the session, the brethren would have the needed opportunity for social conversation. This is especially true in larger places, where most of the new members are comparatively strangers to most of the older ones. We were much struck with the remark of a pretty regular attendant upon Masonic meetings in the city of his residence, to the effect that he was better acquainted with the members of one of the bodies than with those of the other, because the collation it was in the habit of having gave him an opportunity of a social chat with them. It is a common saying that some members are never seen in a lodge except when there is to be "a set-down," and it has been as commonly said that these have no interest in Masonry except when it affects their stomachs; but isn't this a little uncharitable? May it not be, after all, that the social enjoyment is largely what calls them out? We believe so; and moreover, we believe if their interest was kept alive in this matter it would soon become an interest in Masonry.—J. H. DRUMMOND.

With a flourishing lodge, a competent, well-informed and moral Master, and well selected officers, all lodges may depend upon a perpetuity of existence, and an extended sphere of usefulness. Much of the trouble that has afflicted our few weak and comparatively useless lodges, can be traced, in the first place, to the fact that the Masters chosen have not been of that calibre mentally to enable them to be guides and teachers, and, on that account, the membership,

failing to have an objective point of elevation, continue on the same plane—there is no moral or intellectual improvement in store for them by looking to the East.—*Grand Master Marks, of Louisiana.*

The "Zirkel," of Vienna, has an interesting study upon Masonry in Japan. There exist seven lodges there. Yokohama has three, Tokio two, of which the Mission Lodge dates from 1870. Kobe is the seat of Rising Sun Lodge, No. 1401, founded in 1872, and of the Lodge Hiogo and Osaka, No. 498, founded in 1870. All the lodges are composed of foreigners, but an American, Gen. Legendre, is endeavoring to found a lodge of natives in Tokio.

When King Kalakaua, of the Sandwich Islands, was going to Europe, he applied to Grand Commander Albert Pike for introductions to distinguished brethren abroad. It seems now that he slighted the brethren referred to, and Grand Commander Pike has published in the proceedings of his Supreme Council, an apology to them for the grave error of asking their courtesies for a king, and says the like shall not occur again.

A chairman of one of the Grand Lodge Committees on Foreign Correspondence, being taxed with using an un-Masonic expression in saying that the Grand Lodge was "called to order," defends his action by saying: "It is generally pretty necessary to call the brethren to order before anything else can be done; and while it may be an innovation, we are not ready to acknowledge it a grave error, particularly as our Grand Lodges, as now conducted, are more like business meetings than anything else." To which we remark, too true, in certain jurisdictions; and the sooner these business meetings are changed into Masonic meetings, the better for the Craft.—*Keystone.*