

The Royal Arcanum is being helped into its grave by vigorous blows from critics. The "Insurance Press" gives the following table showing how the membership is increasing at the higher ages:—

Ages.	1895.	1897.	1899.	1900.
25 years or under ...	3,035	8,895	7,259	10,270
30 years .....	5,991	5,774	5,081	5,459
35 years .....	6,768	7,134	6,587	6,676
40 years .....	6,205	7,146	7,078	7,715
45 years .....	5,199	5,535	5,873	6,344
55 years .....	2,592	3,019	3,459	3,886
50 years or over.....	7,091	9,300	11,871	13,456

Upon which data the following comments are made: "The number of members sixty years old or older has nearly doubled in six years. No wonder the order is making extraordinary efforts to get in young blood. But every young man who comes in is a victim, deliberately kidnapped. His blood is needed for the old fellows; therefore he is to be bled. But no amount of effort will keep down the burden of old age nor keep up to proper proportions the influx of the young. It may be seen at a glance, by the relative numbers at the ages given, that the mortality strain on the order is much more intense now than it was six years ago. The Royal Arcanum lost by lapse 16,971 members under thirty-six years of age in the five-year period, 1896-1900. In the same period the number of members sixty years old or older increased from 8,179 to 13,456."

The record of the Royal Arcanum runs parallel with that of other Orders on the same basis of assessments. These institutions inevitably die down from the top, like an old tree, the longer they live the greater the certainty of decay down to the very roots.

**The Mayor Morris Case.** Mayor Morris, of Ottawa, recently took several friends into the Russell House, Ottawa, for refreshment after the legal hour.

He was watched by some enemy, who caused him to appear before the Magistrates' Court, where he, the Chief Magistrate, was fined. In consequence of this offence Mayor Morris was compelled to resign, and was disqualified for two years from civic honours. The principle is sound that the law must not discriminate, but be applied equally to all persons. But at Ottawa conditions exist that practically suspend the law in regard to prohibited hours in hotels. The House of Commons turns night into day by its late sittings. At 11.30 p.m. Ottawa hotel life is as fully awake as in other cities at 8 or 9 p.m. Legislators are moving about with their friends at midnight, going to or coming away from the House, even up to 1 or 2 a.m. To shut up the Ottawa hotels at the legal hour would be irrational, for the legal hour is not a late one in that city. Were the penalty imposed on Mayor Morris impartially levied ninety-five per cent. of members of the House of Commons would be liable to the imposition every night. It is only fair to Mayor Morris that these local conditions should be made known. He would have escaped punishment had not vindictive action been inspired by his commendable activity as a municipal reformer.

**Fraudulent Exhibitions.** Is not the law partial in dealing with fakirs? A fortune teller can be prosecuted, as he or she gets money on false pretences. Why then should not one be who draws an audience at so much per head to see a person placed ostensibly in a position that is very difficult to maintain, who while in that position, is made to carry three adults, the pretence being that this is done by the showman's occult power, when, as a fact, the person is supported by a concealed steel frame? The weight placed upon the person so exhibited would, we are informed by a scientist, break any ordinary human back-bone and the danger of this would be all the greater in proportion to the rigidity of the performer. Yet rigidity is declared to give the strength for carrying this impossible load, this load that would be very dangerous were it really placed upon a human body stretched out under tension. Cases have occurred of serious injury having been inflicted on youths and girls who allowed themselves to be experimented upon, in ignorance that the person they saw at a public show was held up by a concealed steel framework. The trick has been explained in public, yet audiences continue to believe in its being a manifestation of some occult power, which was called "mesmerism" at one time, and to-day, "hypnotism," the true name of which is, "fakirism."

The law of libel, as affecting newspapers, has ever been a scandal. Editors and proprietors of journals are not now hauled off to a common jail for writing or publishing what is regarded as a breach of the law of libel as outrageously as were Montgomery and Leigh Hunt, but they are still liable to most scandalous injustice. A newspaper proprietor, for example, may be sued for damages for publishing a libel. The case may be heard and re-heard, and, after wasting weeks in dancing attendance at a Court, the defendant, the accused newspaper proprietor, may be condemned to pay nominal damages, the judge regarding the offence, if any, too trifling for any serious penalty. The fine may be paid, the costs settled, when the whole matter is liable to be opened *de novo*, as though already it had not occupied two years' attention and been closed by a judgment. This re-opening can be done by changing the suit from a civil action to a criminal. Thus, after a newspaper proprietor has been condemned in a penalty for publishing some trumpety libel, and he has paid the sum and all costs, he can be again hauled before a Court on a criminal charge for the identical offence he has expiated by obeying the verdict of another Court! Now the judgment of the first Court in the civil suit involves no discredit. Indeed, the publication of what is legally regarded as a libel may be a highly praiseworthy act, an act called for by justice and the public interests. But when a person is charged with a criminal offence it is different; he is treated with less consideration by the Court, and with scant respect by the public, by try-