

meant to the animal itself, but to the doglike characteristics as found in degraded humanity. For instance, those lost to modesty are called dogs. A degraded woman is counted as a dog. Men noted for their impudence and love of gain are also so designated. Paul in his Philippian letter says, "Beware of Cowans (Kowns), beware of evil workers," and in Revelations xvii. 15, talking of those who will be allowed to enter the new Jerusalem it says, "for without are cowans (dogs), and sorcerers and murderers," so that the term embraces a great many evil characteristics in man. Therefore to guard against the attack of a cowan, is to be careful of the enemies of intellectual and moral progress that may be nursed and grow up in the heart.

Bro. Tait then gave the significance of the pillars at the porch and explained how in the east two pillars at the door of a temple were supposed to keep out evil spirits. At the conclusion of his address, he received a very hearty vote of thanks from the lodge.

THE BOARD OF TRIAL.

V. W. Bro. Tait addressed a very large gathering of the craft at the last meeting of Wilson Lodge. Wor. Bro. G. Clarke, W. M. introduced Bro. Tait. The subject of the lecture was "the Board of Trial." He explained that Masonry claims to be a society universal in its recognition and sympathetic in its fellowship. Such a claim implied that an utter stranger from any part of the world would be admitted to any lodge as a visitor provided he could show that he was a Master Mason in good standing. The agency by which the lodge carries on its negotiations with the visitor is a committee called the "Board of Trial." Seeing it is a position of great responsibility inasmuch as that committee may reject a worthy man or admit into the lodge room an imposter the members of a Board of Trial should consider their position one of great honor. The following points were then given showing how a Board of Trial should approach a visitor,

(1) You have either to deal with a Mason or an impostor.

(2) Be cautious, courteous and firm.

(3) Do not approach the visitor as a suspect.

(4) You are not expected to do detective or prosecuting attorney work.

(5) Put on no airs of superior knowledge.

(6) Play no tricks by pretending answers are not correct when they are.

(7) Don't indulge in catch questions. They are the slang of Masonry.

(8) Give no hints. Correct no mistakes.

(9) Don't be unnecessarily strict. Ideas are better than words.

(10) Accept all you get without comment.

(11) If you reject do not indicate why.

(12) Judge by general results.

(13) A very desirable visitor may answer poorly.

(14) Answers correctly given may be a cause for suspicion and rejection.

(15) Do not imagine your catechism of questions to be the only correct form, and all departures from it to be errors.

(16) There is no set way of conducting a Board of Trial.

(17) It is your business to get and the visitors to give information.

(18) The "customary" question should only be used as aids. If possible be satisfied as to your visitor without them.

(19) You cannot vouch for any but a Master Mason.

(20) I would give the O. B. last, and not until I was satisfied to admit the visitor.

Bro. Tait then gave an exemplification of Scottish Board of Trial which was very interesting.

The wife of a "jiner" cured her husband of staying out so late at night by going to the door when he came home and whispering through the keyhole: "Is that you, Willie?" Her husband's name is John, and he stays at home every night now, and sleeps with one eye open and a revolver under his pillow.