

apology for the existence of our Society, we need no further proof of the necessity for, or usefulness of our Order than the fact that during the last 6 years we have paid out for sick and funeral benefits the sum of \$32,186. The statistics compiled with the greatest care from the returns of the various lodge Secretaries, and marked appendix B, I would recommend to the earnest consideration of our officers and members. During the year we have initiated 695 new members, a decrease of 160 over that of last year, and yet I am pleased to say that the number paying cap. tax this year is 2,689, or an increase of 415 over last year. Number of members in good standing, 2618, or an increase of 323 over the corresponding month of last year; number of members suspended, 190, a decrease of 120 over that of last year; number of deaths, 19, an increase of 3 over that of last; I am pleased to say that only 4 members during the year have been expelled, most of these for non-payment of dues; amount paid for sick benefits this year is \$4,096.26, or an increase of \$139 over last year; paid for funerals, \$1,039, or an increase of \$268 over that of last year; amount paid for surgeon's fees, \$5,397, an increase of \$397 over last year; amount received for cap. tax, \$999.60, an increase of \$170 over last year; this should be over \$1000 as one quarter's cap. tax is due from two lodges; amount of cash in bank, \$21,856, an increase of \$1,206 over the corresponding month of last year; cash in hands of treasurers, \$2,367. Some lodges show capital invested, but do not mention the form of the investment. I think it highly desirable that all Lodge funds should be properly secured, and invested according to the Constitution. The amount of cash received by our Lodges during the year was \$20,518, an increase of \$1,775 over last year, deducting \$8,582, an increase of \$1,514 over that of last year. We have a balance of \$11,936, over the year's revenue, the bulk of which has been added to the capital stock in the Bank, making the total of Lodge funds, \$26,401.46. I would strongly urge upon our Lodge officers to put forth every effort to retain our members; it is as important that we hold fast to those within our ranks, as it is to increase our members. The material from which we gather our members, is to a certain extent limited, unlike other Societies, who admit members of all nationalities. We are restricted, and it therefore behooves us to use every influence and endeavour to keep and hold fast those who join our ranks. One or two of our Lodges at the present time are feeling a depression in this connection; those I would strongly encourage to redouble their efforts and strive to win back many who are careless and lukewarm. It should be a special point on the part of our officers to see that members are not allowed to drop out without great efforts to retain them. Of the 695 initiations during the past year nearly two-thirds are among the city Lodges, and allowing for the new Lodges, leaves a small per centage for the Lodges outside of Toronto. I am pleased, however, to note already this year an improvement in several other districts. There are causes which we understand has affected to a large extent the increase of members in some Lodges: the unfortunate black-balling system, which in some instances has been carried to extreme lengths; one case in particular that has come under my observation, has affected the Lodge more or less for the last two years. I earnestly hope this dangerous trifling will cease among us, that we will remember that we are