

transpositions, etc. The exceptions are two items. The first relating to the formation of District Lodges, and the second to the establishment of an Official Organ for the Society.

The matter of forming District Lodges I strongly disapprove, after mature thought upon the question. At anyrate, not in the shape proposed. I am unable to see any good purpose which they would subserve, while adding to our machinery and expenses. Moreover, in cities and populous districts, the idea might be put into effect; but it would be impracticable in country localities, hence its operation must of necessity become sectional, and consequently unfair to a large portion of our membership. It must not be lost sight of that District Deputies already have it within their power to call together the officers and members in their several Districts for conference and discussion of matters affecting their jurisdictions, and I caused a letter to be sent to the District Deputies inviting them to do this, which many of them have complied with, and the results have proved beneficial.

I hold the opinion that a society such as the S.O.E. should go slowly in the matter of adding to its governmental machinery, unless a very clear necessity is proven to exist for the same. It is possible to be too much governed.

As to the necessity for an Official Organ for our Society, I think all are agreed. The matter has been referred to repeatedly in reports of Supreme Grand Lodge Officers from time to time, all of which has been received and endorsed by this Grand Body; but up to the present time no official action has been taken. With the view of putting the matter before this Supreme Grand Lodge in practical form, your Executive has made calculations and obtained data in relation to the publication of an Official Organ, which I have pleasure in placing before you.

Your Executive, shortly after the meeting of last Supreme Grand Lodge, being impressed with the great importance to our membership of a paper devoted to the interests of the Society, entered into negotiations with Brother Reynolds, proprietor of the *Anglo-Saxon*, with a view to furnishing the paper to all the Lodges that would subscribe for it, at the rate of ten cents per capita for its last six monthly issues.

We felt justified in taking this course, considering its importance to the Society, inasmuch as it would not involve any expense to this Supreme Grand Lodge.

It was expected that the whole membership of the Order would have seized so favorable an offer to get the paper at so very small cost; but only about one-third of the Lodges finally subscribed for it.