WISCONSIN—1897.

The Fifty-Third Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin opened in the new Masonic building, Milwaukee, June 8th 1897, M. W. Grand Master Aldro Jenks presiding.

He opens his address by reporting peace, harmony and prosperity within the Jurisdiction. This Grand Lodge now numbers 237 chartered Lodges with 2 under dispensation, having a total membership roll of 16,937. The net gain of members for the year was 529.

We note among the dispensations refused, was one to permit a Lodge to attend Easter Service in Masonic clothing. We have remarked upon refusals such as this in our review of reports of other Jurisdictions and are not yet convinced that such requests should be refused.

The Grand Master deals at some length with the question of the physical qualification of the candidate. He reports that he finds the edicts of his Grand Lodge inconsistent on this point and in disregard of them, has uniformly held that when a candidate was maimed, mutilated or deformed, he was ineligible for initiation, notwithstanding he might be capable of conforming to all the requirements of the ritual and obligation.

Among other decisions the Grand Master held that waver of Jurisdiction could only come as the result of the Lodge wishing Jurisdiction making formal application, and the Lodge to which the application was made agreeing to the waiver by a secret unanimous ballot.

The Grand Master reports that owing to a tendency showing itself among some of the Lodges in his Jurisdiction to introduce innovations into the work of a dramatic and literary nature, he was compelled to issue an edict enjoining the Lodges to follow strictly the work as given by the Grand Lecturer.

The Grand Lecturer of Wisconsin, Bro. M. L. Youngs, has filled this office with much credit to himself and the Grand Lodge for forty years. Under the Constitution he holds eighty day schools of instruction during the year and visits some sixty Lodges. His report presents some very interesting historical facts in reference to the