

Among the changes it makes, one forbids the holding of special communications for the conferring of degrees, which seems of questionable utility. Lodges must confine their work to five candidates a day.

In the report of Grand Secretary Ehlers the following passage occurs :

At the date of my first report to the Grand Lodge, there were 69,629 Master Masons in good standing upon our register. At that time we had a debt amounting to more than \$600,000, with no prospect in the near future of discharging that debt, and applying the revenues of the Craft for the building and support of a Home. Shortly thereafter, the plan for the accomplishment of the herculean task of paying the debt was inaugurated. The latent energies of our brethren were aroused and very many lodges, the moment the desire and purpose of the Grand Master was made known, entered vigorously into the work. In three years the task was so grandly accomplished as to challenge the admiration of the Masonic world. During the period, while the work of paying the debt was yet in progress, a fair was organized by the ladies of New York and Brooklyn, which, through the splendid efforts of those near and dear to us, resulted in realizing the magnificent sum of more than \$85,000, which became the nucleus for building the Home. The laying of the corner-stone of that Home, its erection and subsequent dedication followed in rapid succession, the cost of the edifice being \$230,000.

The brother who, more than fifty years ago, while filling the office of Grand Secretary, evolved the idea of building a hall in this city, out of the revenues of which should be erected and maintained a Home, for the indigent brother, the destitute widow and the helpless orphan, "builted better than he knew." Among the inmates of our Home is the daughter of the founder of the Hall and Asylum Fund.

The following officers were elected : M.W. Bro. John Stewart, G.M. ; R.W. Bro. W. William A. Sutherland, D.G.

M. ; Bros. Chas. E. Ide, S.G.W. ; Chas. W. Cushman, J.G.W. ; Wm. J. McDonald, G. Treasurer ; Edward M. L. Ehlers, G. Secretary ; James B. Gillie, Roderick Campbell and Frederick B. Morris, Trustees of Hall and Asylum Fund.—*Masonic Home Journal*.

THE CURSE OF "RITUAL TINKERS."

The craftsman or companion who has a disposition to be conservative, in regard to the esoteric work in Masonry, is kept in a condition of supreme disgust in noticing the patching and cobbling the ritualism receives from a class of men whose business it would seem to be to tinker with the esoteric "work," both in craft and capitular Freemasonry. It has ever been thus and the result is that no two jurisdictions in America work alike. And still each one insists that it has the only original Simon Pure form of work. The *Tyler* has repeatedly called attention to this evil, but where more powerful influences are supreme, all protests are valueless and the tinker's hammer and soldering iron are kept busily at work. This is very perceptible in capitular work and one would think that having the government of the General Grand Chapter over American capitular Masonry, there would be a sort of uniformity in the Royal Arch Masonic jurisdictions, holding obedience to the ruling body. But such is far from being the case, even with the assistance of a "key," presumed to have the indorsement of the General Grand Chapter. There is not a chapter in the United States that works exactly alike. All have more or less made some departure from the "key," and elaborated to suit the idea of some local "degree tinker" who interpolates a change here and there in the way of improvement (?). In Michigan we elaborate by clipping something off, until we have the Royal Arch and all its accessory degrees trimmed down to a shadow of old-time capitular Mason-