

ROTARY'S SIXTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

A Brief History

(By J. W. Gehrke, Hon. Secretary)



Pres. Leckie

On the twenty-third of February, 1905, Rotary had its inception. The idea was conceived in the mind of Paul Harris, an attorney of Chicago, who called a meeting of a score of his business acquaintances, each of different business and professional pursuits, and before this assemblage propounded his plan.

These men had in view an organization solely for the City of Chicago, one among thousands of organizations in that city with the constitutional difference that its membership should be composed only of men from different spheres of activity in business and professional life. Its success was almost spontaneous, and, without any attempt at missionary work, the idea was adopted in other communities of the U. S. A., first finding its way in the West. Between and among these various clubs there was no connection until finally the idea had grown to such immense proportions that a national organization was formed in 1910, with its head-quarters in Chicago.

In the year 1912 an organization was formed in Toronto and Rotary's influence became international. Vancouver, with its zeal to embrace anything that is of value, organized its club in 1913. In 1914 the idea was first introduced over seas in the British Isles, where at the present time there are thirty-two clubs in the British Association of Rotary Clubs which is affiliated with the International.

The first country outside of the English-speaking people to organize a Rotary Club was Cuba. In the last few years it

has been organized in almost every civilized section of the earth. There are now in affiliation eight hundred and thirty clubs, meeting weekly, with a total membership of sixty-three thousand. The average attendance at the meetings, on this continent, for the month of January was 76%. The membership of Rotary is chosen carefully and any member who voluntarily absents himself for four successive meetings, automatically ceases to be a member, and another is chosen to fill his classification. Thus attendance is the price of membership.



Sec. Gehrke

Scope and Purpose of Rotary.

Rotary is built upon the motto "Service Not Self" and "He Profits Most Who Serves Best." Since charity begins at home, so Rotary work begins with its own organization.

First: By the betterment of the individual member.

Second: By the betterment of the member's business, both in a practical and in an ideal way.

Third: The betterment of the member's craft or profession as a whole.

Fourth: The advancement of the member's home, City, Province, Country, and of Society as a whole.

Rotary activities provide members with code of correct practices and high standards of business. The ideals are not merely dreams of aspiration, but working models for the mem-

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