

or sentiments. Now, if we were to enquire closely into the cause or reason of the non-payment of dues, we would find that only a limited number of those brethren who are in arrear deserve our sympathy, while the great majority richly deserve the penalty.

[CONCLUSION NEXT MONTH.]

Masonic Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our Correspondents.

Non-Payment of Dues.

To the Editor of THE CRAFTSMAN.

SIR,—The thanks of the Canadian Craft are undoubtedly due to our illustrious Brother Hughan for the valuable information he has afforded us regarding the practices of the Imperial Grand Lodges on the N. P. D. question. Such information is well worthy of our close attention at a time when the subject is becoming pressing for a solution in this country.

The practice of Ireland, that when a Brother's name is stricken off the roll, he shall not be continued a member of any other Lodge, and that the Lodge violating this rule shall be liable for his arrears, and pay same to the Lodge of which the Brother was formerly a member, as well as a fine of \$10 to Grand Lodge, is truly a valuable hint for us in Canada, and if adopted by us would go far to mitigate the evils of dual membership, which is a curse to many a Lodge and Chapter.

The Scotch practice seems to me to be equitable. It reduces the defaulting member (because he fails to pay for member's privileges) to a visitor in his own Lodge, without inflicting a death penalty, and no man could long endure such punishment and continue visiting his Lodge. At the same time it seems to recognize the fact that no man should be deprived of his rights as a member of

the Order for which he has paid in full.

Under England there seems a lack of consistency, for a Brother who has been contributing for two years has a claim on the fund of Benevolence, so at the end of that time he may take his dimit, while if he continues to pay for ten years he may be ousted without any consideration on the eleventh year. This is hardly a model for us to copy from. The 5% payable in lieu of dues looks like interest on arrears owing, and this idea might with advantage be considered by many of our Lodges with the object of incorporating such a provision in their By-laws. It seems a very strange proceeding that when a Brother is restored by payment of all dues up to the time of restoration, the annual contribution which each Lodge has to pay Grand Lodge for each member "on the roll" is to be paid in a lump sum. Grand Lodge certainly has no just claim to any portion of this money. The delinquent's membership ceased from the time his name was struck off till restoration, and during this period he enjoyed no protection from Grand Lodge. Why should Grand Lodge claim for a Brother who was struck off the roll and was for the time being dead to all intents and purposes. I have already commented on the impropriety of Lodge dues accumulating during suspension in the November CRAFTSMAN.

It certainly appears plainer and plainer the more this non-payment of dues business is considered, that Freemasonry as now practiced in some sections is as mercenary as a Life Insurance Company, who is quite pleased to be quit of a policy-holder who has been paying premiums for years, but having exhausted all his spare funds, rudely throws away the sucked orange. That this bar sinister may speedily be removed from her escutcheon is earnestly hoped for by

ACACIA.