

These documents are in the same unsafe condition to-day, and some means should be at once devised, for the safe keeping against fire of our valuable property.

No prudent man would allow his books and the valuable documents of his business to be so jeopardized, neither ought this Society to permit such negligence to continue.

Then the offices themselves are inadequate and can scarcely be considered suitable or up to date for the head offices of a Society such as the S.O.E. has become.

Owing to the increased work consequent upon the change in the Beneficiary Department, occasional help has had to be called in during the past few months, and the permanent clerks are kept busy all the time.

The Supreme Grand Secretary himself is invariably at his office until ten or eleven o'clock at night. This is absolutely necessary in order that he may keep pace with the work that comes in daily. Great demands are made upon his time during the day by callers, principally brethren from distant points, to consult him upon matters affecting their several Lodges. The correspondence alone with 220 Lodges is enormous, and the book-keeping and other routine work is so constant and heavy that more consideration must be shown to him. I am pleased to state that I have received from him and his staff uniform courtesy, and every facility and assistance have been rendered me in conducting the affairs of the Society.

I respectfully recommend in this connection that better and more suitable offices be fitted up either in Shaftesbury Hall or elsewhere, with vaults and other conveniences, that additional office assistance be provided the Supreme Grand Secretary and that he be granted a substantial increase of salary.

If the reforms as outlined above be carried into effect, it might enable the Supreme Grand Secretary to visit the Lodges more extensively than has been possible hitherto, and so in a measure the work of an Organizer and Supervisor may be done by him.

#### *Juvenile Department.*

The Sessional papers contain several proposed amendments to the Juvenile Constitution, chiefly relative to the amount of contributions to be paid by the boys, and benefits they should receive from their Lodges.