

"MALLETT," who is the Masonic editor of the Glasgow *Evening News* writes a kindly notice of the work of M.W. Bro. J. Ross Robertson in reference to his *Cryptic and Templar histories* and "Talks with Craftsmen." He says:—

"I received recently a trio of books from our enthusiastic Brother, J. Ross Robertson, Past Grand Master of Canada, all three emanating from his facile pen. It is difficult at this distance to even approximately estimate the busy life of Bro. Robertson in the interests of Freemasonry in Canada. Whether in Ritualistic or benevolent work, the founding of a home for children, or contributing to our literary lore, Brother Robertson seems to be ever active and untiring. The volume I have before me shows that he does not confine himself to Craft Masonry, and proves that his knowledge and interest are equally bright in history of the Cryptic Rites and Knights Templar.

The first volume, "Robertson's History of the Cryptic Rite" treating of the "origin and introduction of the Rite on this Continent," indicates a marvellous amount of research, his task being, as stated in the preface. "To give a complete history of the degrees of Royal, Select and Super Excellent Master, from their origin to the present time." In the 38 chapters of which the book is made up, there is a huge amount of facts and deductions, and in the closing chapter Brother Robertson says: "We ask ourselves what is the future of the Rite?" The answer he asserts is, "That the Rite is not gaining that meed of success to which its history and the beauty of the ceremonial gives it a title." Hope is not dead however, and he looks forward to a realization of their dreams of success of the Rite in Canada.

"Talks with Craftsmen and Pencilings by the Wayside" is the title of the second volume, the whole of the proceeds from the sale of which is devoted to the Funds of the Lakeside Home

for Little Children, the summer annex on Toronto Island, of the Hospital for Sick Children, of which Bro. R. is chairman. The book contains many chatty paragraphs and wholesome precepts, and admirably fulfils the purpose for which the items were garnered from the author's pencilings at various times—namely, Talks with Craftsmen.

Space forbids me glancing at Mr. Robertson's third volume until next week.

THE following paragraphs which we cut from the *Freemason* (London) we fully endorse. The non-affiliate question is becoming a craze with some of our American Brethren who seem to forget that Masonry is "free." If a man can only be admitted on his own free choice, he must be also "free" to leave his lodge when he so desires, no compulsion must be exercised in Freemasonry. Our Order is not a benefit or insurance association whose members pay so much for certain benefits, but a voluntary institution binding on every member to help a brother in distress as far as he is able. The brother dimitting from his Lodge does not release us from our obligation of helping the widow and orphans of a non-affiliate.

"At the last annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Montana it was resolved to deprive non-affiliates of all Masonic rights except that of petitioning to be restored to membership. Therefore, if a non-affiliate is in distress, he must remain so, if he dies by the wayside, he must be buried like a dog, if he leaves a widow and children they must perish for the want of necessities. Such, at least, is the resolution at which the brethren of the Grand Lodge of Montana have arrived, and we know they are honourable men all of them, and Masons inspired with the purest feelings of Charity towards their brother