

HOW TO SPEAK IN LODGE MEETING.

We have noticed lately with much interest that the number of compendiums, teaching the manner of speaking, has increased. That is a very important matter. We have long descanted on the great school that is continually in session in the lodge room, a school in which many of us have learned all we know of public speaking. These compendiums are of course of value, but a fraternity man who has not learned the art of speaking, either before or after dinner, or at any time, without the use of a manual, will never learn. We are somewhat confident of that, for we have practiced a little ourselves.

Not having the contents of these ready speakers in our mind, we cannot quote from them to give force and emphasis to our declarations, but we are confident that for every speaker a ready talking manual makes, practice creates half a dozen. It is like the manner of learning to write. One may read all the grammars he likes and learn the rules of the rhetoric, but it is only a careful reading of the best writers that will give him ease and proficiency in the art of writing. Surely the skeleton must be in the frame, but it is the flesh that makes or unmakes the figure. This lesson in the art of composition is only but just beginning to take hold of our public school management. Hitherto it has been a reading of manuals. Now it is practice with the best performers as text books.

Brothers of the lodge room, do not fear to speak. This may seem audacious, for no one is more tiresome than the lodge-room talker who merely talks. If a man says something and says it briefly, he will be gladly listened to upon every occasion. Indeed he will be vociferously called on for almost every occasion. What the people want to hear is the voice of a brother who says something. To do this no manual or "Ready Speaker" is necessary. Just think over what you want to say, and then say it. Say it courteously and briefly. Do not be afraid to be frank, but do not offend anyone by a brutal frankness. Give your thought suggestively, as if you were simply feeling of another's mind. In this way you can overcome prejudice, can speak your full mind with freedom and will not be antagonized. Speak, brothers, speak, but do not speak by the book. The touch of fraternal feeling will show you the way of impressing your ideas upon your fellows.—Fraternal News.

:o:

THE LODGE KICKER.

There are quite a number of lodges in British Columbia, but there will be more than twice as many in the near future. The reason is this: Every lodge has, or will soon have a second kicker (they all have one, the goat). Now this second kicker feeds himself and kicks automatically, and is very useful—he does not find fault but shows up faults, mistakes, etc. He is not at all disagreeable about it but to speak figuratively, he serves the same end as pepper-sauce at meal-time, adding a zest to the food. Therefore lodges in "All America" should at once invest in a "Good Natured Kicker." They'll find him a Mascot.

Yours in F. C. & B.,

ROBT. BROOKE.

"IT'S NOT MY WAY."

"It's not my way."

How often is this heard;

"It's not my way, to speak the kindly word;
I feel enough, but 'tis not well to speak,
To tell my loving out it seems so weak."

"It's not my way."

How often hearts have broken

Because the loving word has been unspoken;
Because the smile we looked for was a frown,
The hand that should uplift but held us down.

"It's not my way."

To speak the word that craving love requires,
To voice approval, foster vain desires."

Hearts often faint and fall out by the way,
Because to speak is not your way.

"It's not my way."

Ah, well, when Death shall come,

And touch the best-loved lips and make them
dumb,

Sad will it be for you, if grim Regret

And stern Remorse upon your heart-strings set

Their fingers firm;

Because it is their way, to torture and to wring,

Then you'll remember every little thing,

The smile you did not give, the word unspoken,
Which might have gilded life and kept a heart
unbroken.

Aye, then you will remember;

And in blood sweat and agony will say,

"Would it had been my way

To love, approve and tell it out, so meet

For it was you that made my life complete."

—Rose Seelye Miller, in *The Observer*.

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The circular issued by the Grand Lodge of Missouri advocating the abolishment of the Supreme Tribunal is not favored by this committee. The decisions of the Supreme Tribunal have been so liberal, so just, so valuable to the Order, that we do not believe their services should be dispensed with. They have so consistently disregarded technicalities and pretty law quibbles that the humblest member of the order can know that the merits of his cause will be carefully weighed. The Domain of California never takes a backward step. We are in favor of the Supreme Tribunal.—Ex.

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