

many Lodges. We are not urging that the rent is excessive as a matter of value for money, but that it is much more than many of our Lodges ought to pay for the use of the meeting place twelve times a year for the short period of about three hours. We were quite in accord with the recent vote for renovating the present hall, because it is a work of absolute necessity. But we do think that the Craft should lose no time in preparing for some other rendezvous when the present term transpires. To commence arrangements for building a temple of our own would appear to be the sensible thing to do, but the proposal has been so often broached and so often come to nothing that we almost despair of the use of opening up the matter once again. Yet, anyway, we think that the amount paid for "hall rent" is serious enough to cause many intelligent Masons to, perhaps, give more attention to the subject than they have hitherto thought necessary.

The subject of "dues in arrear" is a very important one in the large majority of Masonic Lodges, and it is one to which we ought all to direct our attention to endeavor to find a solution, if there be one. We cannot help thinking there is something wrong in the mode of collection, because it is not likely in any ordinary matter of business would a proportionate number of men be so remiss in meeting a pecuniary liability. Does not the plan of allowing the range of a whole twelvemonth, during which dues can be legitimately spread out, induce a general laxness? As a matter of fact, subscriptions are all due in advance, and were it made obligatory that they be paid in advance, we believe that

much of this trouble would cease. Of course, it does appear a harsh proceeding to suspend a brother for non-payment, and it is always reluctantly done, but what other method can be adopted? In cases where, through misfortune, a member of the Craft is not able to meet his responsibilities we all know that there is no need to ask for leniency to be shown, as it is never refused; but when no notice is taken of repeated official applications, we beg to say that it is a false delicacy and a mistaken kindness to hesitate to put the penalty in force. Still we hold that the want of method in many of the lodges is the primary cause of the evil. Promptness in application will induce greater promptness in response, until, ultimately, brethren will have to do their duty and bring in their fees without being asked. If dues were more generally collected quarterly, and expected to be paid at the first night of meeting in January, April, July and September, many lodges would be in a better financial position, the secretary's work would be more easy, and a source of much unpleasantness and oftentimes ill-feeling would be cleared out of the way.

LODGE WRECKERS.

R. W. Bro. E. T. Malone read a paper before the members of St. Andrew's Lodge, at its February meeting, when he referred to malicious blackballing. Some of our readers may be able to place the lodge he referred to, but in case they are not, we anticipate dealing with the subject in such a plain manner in the future that no doubt can any longer exist. We hope plain speech will not be neces-