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ALL HANDS TO THE WORK!

BY BRO. CHARLES VON GAGERN, MEMBER OF SCHILLER LODGE, ORIENT PRESS-
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We are indebted to R. E. Comp. Charles Doebler, P. G. Superintendent Ontario District, Port Hope, for a translation of the following article, which appeared in the *Orient*, published at Budapest, Hungary. R. E. Comp. Doebler thinks the article applies with equal force to our own jurisdiction, and we agree with him:—

There are few lodges in Austria-Hungary and in the neighboring Germany, in which the familiar complaint is not heard about the want of intellectual activity amongst the members,—and this complaint is everywhere rather too true. It is in the interest of Masonry to consider ways and means by which to remove this evil; and although it will be a difficult task to accomplish, it can at least be remedied.

As a rule, brethren attending lodge are divided into two categories, viz: in speaking and listening; in giving and receiving; in activity and passiveness. This is decidedly wrong. Admitting that all are not possessed of the talent for making speeches, yet everyone has feelings in his breast, and intellect in his brain. This is enough for the beginning. No orator ever falls from the sky; every one of us should not only work on the rough ashler, but also on the rough tongue, in order to make it supple and pliant,

and only by practice can this be accomplished. What great exertion did Demosthenes put forth (who became the greatest orator of the Greeks) to improve the impediment in his speech, and to strengthen this weak organ? It is, therefore, only practice that is requisite to awaken the necessary thoughts and to convey them to the brethren in a more or less elegant manner. If not successful the first time, a second effort will be better,—still better a third and each succeeding attempt, and the novice may and can count on the indulgence of the brethren.

This division into two categories must stop. All men, without exception, must put their hands to work to remove the marasmus which threatens the destruction of the most of our work. It is not a problem for a few; it is a matter for all, to bring enjoyment to our lodges. It will be impossible for the first named, even with the utmost exertion, to change the inactivity of a great many to activity. They will even lose their energy when the expected results prove a failure; their zeal will slacken; their power will fail. Otherwise, it is contrary to the fundamental principles of Masonry, likewise to the absolute equality of the brethren, that in such an unavoidable case, the development of a certain ranking of the great majority of the brethren