

rendered so accessible, and so enjoyable, so long you will not only continue to appreciate the Masonry that you already know, but you may add to your knowledge, year by year, and thus be treasuring up a constantly increasing store of information, which will be a perpetual source of delight and instruction, until time shall be no more. Practically there is thus no limit to advancement in Masonry.—*Keystone.*

SUCCESS—HOW IT MAY BE CHECKED.

It is one of the peculiarities of human nature that while one man, or one section of the community, is struggling for an existence, others, with apparently only similar facilities, are overwhelmed with success, and are obliged to adopt measures to check, in some form or other, the prosperity which is showered upon them. In every sphere of life there are men who can find no outlet for their abilities, while others are obliged to refuse much of the patronage offered them. So it is with Masonic lodges, some of them struggle on from year to year, barely receiving sufficient new members to fill the vacancies caused by death or resignation among the older ones, while others are so overwhelmed with applications for admission that at last the members feel compelled to adopt measures to relieve themselves of some of the success—numerically speaking—which presses so heavily upon them. It is difficult to decide upon the steps to be adopted when such a course is deemed necessary, and still more difficult to see the ultimate result of whatever action may be decided upon; yet it is one of those points in the management of our lodges to which a very small amount of attention is usually devoted, for the reason that those interested in the alteration are of necessity flushed with the success they are bent on checking, and either forget, or do not

care to consider, the possibility of a change coming in the future. Many a lodge has become so strong in membership as to induce the brethren to adopt some restrictive measures for their future government in regard to the admission of candidates, with the result that a stop has virtually been put to all propositions for either joining or initiation; and, as a result, the lodge has not only lost its high position, but has dwindled down until it has either collapsed altogether, or has had to be remodelled or resuscitated under the direction of some energetic Master, who may possess more fire or good fortune than some of his predecessors.

One of the most popular courses adopted by members of lodges when they come to the conclusion they are becoming too strong, is to raise the fees of admission, placing them at such a figure as to render the lodge "restrictive." This is one of the greatest mistakes possible in any organization, and more particularly so in Freemasonry—where mercenary considerations should be unknown. This course has the effect of keeping out good men, but really opens the way for less desirable acquisitions. Good men will hesitate before they spend an exorbitant sum on the gratification of any fancy; while others, to whom money is of less consideration, will select the most expensive company, in the hope of mixing with a better class of companions; and, it may be, of having a wealthier class on whom to prey should they determine to make use of their Masonic membership for unworthy motives. Then, the increase in fees has caused the lodge to be without an initiate for months, so that when a candidate does offer himself, who is ready to pay the increased dues, he is received with open arms, and in all probability much of the caution which should be exercised in regard to admission is relaxed for fear of frightening away a valuable acquisition—in the form of a new member. As a