

year and a half's dues. Should he be considered in good standing at the time of his death, and is his widow entitled to Masonic relief?

Ans. Yes. The brother was in good standing at the time of his death, and his widow is entitled to Masonic relief. A brother is in good standing until he is suspended or expelled. This brother was not suspended, and he was, therefore, in good standing when he died. This Lodge should bear in mind that any by-law depriving members in arrears (without being suspended) of their right to vote is illegal and void.

Q. Can more than one Chapter degree be conferred on a candidate in one night? Can all the four degrees be conferred at one meeting? If not, how many and what degrees can?

Ans. The Constitution of the Grand Chapter of Canada does not contain any provision specifying or limiting the time that should elapse between the degrees. In the Lodge degrees, one month must elapse between each; but it was probably thought that the reasons for this prohibition in the Lodge were not equally applicable to the Chapter. At all events, there is no time limit made in the Chapter; and from this it would appear that there would not be any violation of the Constitution in conferring all the four degrees at one meeting.

At the same time, we think that this course should not be pursued, except in cases of pressing emergency. It would be in the best interest, both of the Chapter and the candidate, to allow one month to pass between each degree, so that the candidate can be thoroughly acquainted with one de-

gree before proceeding to the next. The aspirant will thus be better fitted to understand and appreciate his new duties and obligations; and the Chapter will be correspondingly benefited in the possession of a more thoroughly posted member.

The rushing through of candidates at railroad speed should be strongly deprecated, as inimical to the best interests of the Craft. It is certainly a source of weakness, and may cause the extinction of any Chapter that follows this practice.

#### Ottawa Items.

Since my last notes there has not occurred anything of material interest out of the usual course of events. It is, however, satisfactory to find that several of our Lodges are "looking up," candidates having offered themselves more freely than heretofore. I understand, too, that our youngest born—"Prince of Wales"—now working under dispensation, is about to apply for a warrant, the granting of which is still a matter of divided opinion among the brethren here.

By its second excursion, the Burial Plot Committee unfortunately lost some \$40, which seriously reduces the profit of its previous successful venture. I cannot help thinking the Committee acted unwisely in having a second excursion so close on its first, especially as it usually acts so cautiously. They have, I notice, placed a contribution box in the Rideau Street Hall, into which many a quarter will, I hope, find its way. The benefit this Committee holds out is thoroughly practical. I hear it