

The first burial in the society lot was that of Bro. Karl Pelzke, a member of a lodge in Berlin, Austria, who died suddenly in the New York Central depot in Buffalo, January 20, 1885. Modestia Lodge gave the stranger a burial with Masonic honors.

W. W. Richard H. Taylor, Grand Master of Arkansas, in his annual address said: "It is a burning shame that in this day of enlightenment, with so much excellent Masonic literature so easy of access, that men seeking to occupy prominent places at the hands of the craft, show how utterly ignorant they are of Masonic information." Too true. The writer overheard a couple of brethren discussing the qualities of a brother "in line" in one of our grand bodies not long since, when one of them, seeming to lose patience, said: "Why, man, he don't even take a daily paper."

Bro. T. S. Parvin, Grand Secretary of Iowa, (Cedar Rapids, Iowa), and Bro. N. R. Parvin, Assistant Grand Secretary, are making special efforts to increase the value of the already valuable collection of Masonic books in the fire-proof building belonging to that Grand Lodge. Among other things they want an autograph copy of one poem by every Masonic poet.

The cost of disseminating the work of the Blue Lodge degrees in Iowa, \$3,000 per annum; \$1,500 salary to the Grand Lecturer, and as much more in the way of expenses in maintaining the system. Wisconsin does it well, at an expense of \$500 per annum to the Grand Lodge.—*Masonic Tidings*.

Numbered with the illustrious dead is Brother Benjamin F. Haller, of Tennessee, thrice Grand Master of the Grand Council of Tennessee, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Tennessee, and late Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee, and one of the most prominent members of the craft in the United States. He died on Good Friday, April 5th. A soldier, a man of honor, and a true Mason, he was buried with Masonic honors, and

his funeral was one of the largest ever seen in Memphis.

The members of the Alpena Masonic fraternity have made arrangements for the construction of a new temple, to be owned by them. Sufficient stock to build and furnish a needed lodge room has been subscribed.

The New York Board of relief has decided to establish a temporary shelter for poor sojourning brethren without a home. A labor bureau will be connected with the shelter to help craftsmen to obtain employment.

There are 483 ministers of the gospel included in the membership of the Masonic Lodges of Alabama, averaging a little over two ministers to a Lodge. Surely enough of "leaven" to leaven the whole mass.

In Brooklyn, over the door of one of the ante-rooms is to be seen a mammoth gridiron, with this conspicuous placard on it: "To be used only in case of fire." We would like to ask those brethren where else would they use this emblem of the craft except in close proximity to the element of fire. This reminds us of an incident of the same city wherein a certain brother, who has a grocery store, displayed a large placard, "Fresh Eggs." We asked him why he used the word "fresh." His answer was contained in the act of taking in the sign very quickly.—*Ex*.

Royal Arch Masonry in Arkansas, is in a general way, prosperous. Four Chapters organized during the year. There are 63 Chapters in the State with 1689 members. Comp. R. J. Laughlin submits the report on correspondence. Of the Grand Secretary's report he says: "Its general appearance seems to say, 'Enquire within for anything you want to know.'" Samuel Peete, G.H.P.; James A. Henry, Grand Secretary.

Several of the American Grand Lodges very rightly decline to recognise a *degree* of Past Masters. The Grand Lodge of Montana pronounces it "a useless formula, conferring nothing essential or