

NON-ATTENDANCE AND NON-INTEREST.

Editor, "True Knight," Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir and Brother,—Having recently had opportunity visiting several of our lodges, I was particularly impressed by the small attendance at each. This has confirmed what I had suspected before, that is that the non-attendance of members to their lodges is due to a great extent to non-interest in lodge work. Now there must be a cause for this, and I am of opinion that our subordinate lodges lay by far too much stress on the question of benefits. It seems to me the lodges of K. of P. are to-day more of an insurance organization against sickness than an Order founded on principles which are excelled by no other organization. Of course I do not mean to do away with sick benefits, but I do think that benefits to our sick should not be made the paramount business of every lodge meeting to the exclusion of the aims and objects of that for which the Order was primarily brought into existence. The average member is satisfied when he has paid his dues that he has done all that should or could be expected of him, doubtless thinking he has provided against sickness for a period just as he pays his insurance against fire or life. Now to me this seems totally at variance with the teachings and precepts of our Order; Friendship, Charity and Benevolence, together or separately, cannot be paid for at a dollar per month. Charity is as different from benefit as night is from day, Charity is not for sale, cannot be put on the market for a certain fixed price, and we should not confound a charitable action with what we claim as a right. Friendship, Charity and Benevolence can never be claimed as a right, but must be given and extended voluntary, and with that grace with which a benefit can never be tendered. I have not seen any mention in our Ritual of benefits to be paid to any one who as a member of the Order contributes his monthly dues and then call such transaction an act of F., C. & B.

Of course it will be said that it is charity to help a member when sick, and I admit it would be if such member were relieved whether he be in good standing or otherwise, but I am not so certain that we extend or exercise charity in our lodges when we exclude those who may for some cause or other not be in what is called beneficial standing. The amount of dues paid into the Lodge Exchequer is not altogether (or was in the first instance not meant) as a fund to pay sick benefits, but was called for to pay such expenses

as every organization necessarily must have to keep it going. I firmly believe that were the lodges to think more of the teachings of our beautiful Ritual, exemplify its precepts in and out of the lodge, attendance would be better, and applications for membership more numerous.

A while ago I had occasion to write to one of our lodges, and what I told them will apply to others, I therefore repeat it as I am firmly convinced it is plain truth. The remarks I made were as follows: "There is, and never has been a doubt in my mind as to the effect and consequences of Pythian principles and ceremonies on those not connected with our Order. Where such ceremonies and principles are performed in the true and honest manner intended by their authors new converts are bound to be made, all we have to do is to be honest Pythians, that is to say to follow in the true spirit the Ritual of our Order than no greater or grander book has ever been published. It is the difficulty that so many lodges regard the Ritual as simply like some other paraphernalia of the Order, to be laid aside when lodge is over, and only to be thought of and trotted out when lodge again convenes."

I am well aware that in stating my views I am not taking the popular side, but I am writing this at the special request of some of your managing committee, and I will further state, that I think this is only one of the causes for poor attendance to lodge meetings, but I will write later on other causes, if desired to do so, as I do not wish to monopolize your valuable columns.

Hoping the above remarks will be food for thought, and the theme of criticism in all our lodges and arouse interest, I am,

Fraternally yours,

EMIL PFERDNER,

Far West, No. 1.

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PRESENTATION.

One of those little incidents that go to show that life is worth living, took place in the Castle Hall of Rathbone Lodge, No. 7, K. of P., on the evening of October 7th.

Bro. Arthur T. Crook, Past Chancellor and Charter member of Rathbone Lodge, had just joined the matrimonial ranks and taken to himself a mate for life. In recognition of the services rendered Rathbone Lodge, No. 7 in particular, and the Order in general, Bro. Crook was presented with an address and a handsome piece

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