

members out of the savings accumulated by the "workers" of the lodge. This man was induced to become a member of the Order of Knights of Pythias by the promise of sick and funeral benefits that were to be presented to him, so that he assumed that dollars would be returned from penny investments; and he passes through the ceremony of initiation with only one object before him, which proves to be the "golden kettle" at the end of the rainbow. He remains healthy for a year or more, the anticipated return of his dollars and that of his brothers' is not to be found in his coffers. He has never been awakened to the beautiful teachings of Friendship, Charity and Benevolence.

For a few months he anxiously works to get new members that he may do more to them than was meted out to him, but he soon waxes cold and discontented because he has not been sick to "beat the game," and stays away from lodge, and becomes in arrears for dues. While in this dilemma he is taken sick, finds out that laws have not been complied with, and the gold does not come to his pocket. He is sore, because he says when asked to join, this law was not explained to him. When he gets well he thinks he will do the game yet, so he puts in a few dollars more, but the "god of health" maintains him, and he tires of the continual payment of dues, with none of it coming back. Then selfish mammon whispers in his soul and he passes from membership by the suspension-for-non-payment of dues route. The members with one accord claim he was past redemption.

Now, who is to blame for this condition? We, as members of the Order, are individually and collectively at fault. We seem to worship at the shrine of that impure political god, "What is there in it for me?"

So, in soliciting members, we lead for the baser element of the man, by picturing to him the monetary points with the adhesiveness of a "bunco artist." Cheap fraternities, like any commodity, are unfruitful of the best results. When a man expects something for nothing, he is sure to get scorched by getting the hot end of it.

Brothers, it is time we should "about face" and march to the music "that man is not all selfishness," but by nature he has a better side, nobler thoughts, higher and broader ideas which we can educate to greater deeds if we only solicit his companionship on these lines: Explain that the primary object of the Order of Knights of Pythias is the elevation of humanity, by the spreading of the doctrine of universal brotherhood of man, by eliminating selfishness, elevating the moral standard, making the family mart a charmed circle; that we are not in the strict sense of the word a secret society, but a family of brothers, joined together by ties in which we are obligated to protect and help one another in making each better by the interchanging of opinions as to what is actually meant by friendship, charity, justice and brotherly love.

Make sick and funeral benefits a secondary matter, and not to be considered when inviting a man to become one of us, but rather lead him by the straight, smoother path—the beautiful teaching that was inspired by the noble and upright brothers who prepared the beautiful ritual

we now use. Those ennobling words were not placed therein for idle and listless pronunciation, but to study and carry through all life to come.

When men come into the Order with the proper and pure teaching of the ritual, prepared to be loyal to the law, then, and only then, will the flood-gates branded "Suspension for non-payment of dues" be closed and not before.

Arise, my brothers, do your duty to the Order by being true to yourself and the candidate that is being brought into our fraternal fold.

—10:—

A PYTHIAN HOME.

How a Noble Institution Was Started.—The First Dollar.

Everything has to have a beginning, and the great Ohio Pythian Home was not anywise different from everything else. In building and maintaining in Ohio a home for the aged and the needy brothers of the Order of Knights of Pythias a beginning was made quite a number of years ago, and to-day they have the only, the grandest and best home for the wards of the Order in the world. One of the first considerations towards building this Home was money, and the first dollar given for that purpose has a greater value than any other of the thousands paid into the exchequer for that purpose, and that first dollar was paid, not by a Knight of Pythias and one who might expect at some future day to be benefited by it, but by John H. Brisbin, of the Transvaal, South Africa. This dollar is now firmly imbedded in a handsomely etched nickel plate, which will be appropriately framed and hung up in the superintendent's office at the Home, for a perpetual remembrance in years to come of the beginning of the enterprise. All honor to John Brisbin, who may now be engaged in a bloody strife in the Transvaal and may never know that the dollar he gave is to-day a talisman in the Home he gave the dollar to build.

At the beginning of the work of agitating the building of a home for the needy and orphans, the lamented Bro. George E. Hitchcock, whose great heart was full of love for the orphans, and whose daily task it was to urge its construction on every K. P. he met, was discussing the matter in a railroad car, when an interested listener after asking a few questions, handed Bro. H. this dollar, with the remark: "I want to help build this home." His name and residence was given as above stated. The dollar was preserved until after the Home was assured as a talisman for the future good.

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