

prosecution of the cases in Montreal, and referred to at length in another place. It has become a serious question as to whether the Society should not cease the guarantee of Subordinate Lodge officers' bonds, and require the Lodges to furnish bonds by other means.

As I reported last year, much of your Executive Officers' time is occupied in looking after this business, and very unpleasant duties are imposed upon the Executive in this connection, without corresponding advantage.

Medical Examinations.

It has come to my notice that the medical examination of candidates by some of our surgeons has been, in many cases, lax, and of a very perfunctory character. Also that certificates for sick benefits are frequently granted when the sickness has been slight and not coming within the intent and meaning of our Constitution, or because the brother claiming sick pay is in needy circumstances, whilst in a few Lodges clearance members have been admitted without any medical examination at all. These practices have tended to so deplete the Lodge funds, as to reduce the Lodges affected almost to the verge of bankruptcy. It is unnecessary for me to point out the injustice—not to say dishonesty—to the Lodges of such a pernicious course. Moreover, some of the Lodge surgeons entirely ignore Clause 126 of the Constitution, thereby jeopardizing the sick benefits of members otherwise entitled thereto, and weeks after the brothers are alleged to have been sick, the doctor gives his certificate for sick pay.

I strongly urge upon this Grand Body the importance of formulating such additional rules for the governance of our Lodge surgeons as shall tend to minimize this evil.

I include but a small proportion of our surgeons in the foregoing remarks, and I would rather attribute these irregularities to carelessness than to intentional wrong-doing on their part. I am glad to be able to say, in justice to our medical brethren, that very many of them are most conscientious in the discharge of their duty.

Organizer and Supervisor.

In my report last year as S.G.V.P. I referred to the matter of an Organizer and Supervisor for our Society, and then advised the appointment of such an officer.

Supreme Grand Lodge did not then in its wisdom see fit to adopt my recommendation. After another year's experience, I am more firmly convinced than ever of the necessity for such an officer.