

etc., where the Masons meet afternoons and evenings, every day in the week, when they can spare an hour or two from business, and enjoy a quiet game, write letters, visit friends, etc. The Masons own their own building, and have recently installed a \$1,800 heating plant. The first floor is divided into two or three stores, the rent of which brings in quite a revenue to the Masonic bodies.

The increasing custom of cremating the dead necessitates a revision of funeral ceremonies to comport with the changed conditions. The Grand Lodge of Oregon, at its recent annual communication, appointed a committee of three to add to the funeral service appropriate passages for cremation.

The Grand Lodge of Illinois has accepted the bequest of 120 acres of land in Moultrie County, and appropriated \$125,000 to erect a home for aged Masons, and widows and orphans of Masons. This is a direct reversal of the policy formulated by that Grand Lodge a few years ago, when it declared against "organized charity" and distributed a surplus of over \$100,000 among the Lodges of the State. This goes to show the influence of "a nice fat legacy" in changing the principles of organizations as well as individuals.—*Masonic Standard*.

Square and Compass prints a "pome" dealing with the drinking capacity of ten secret society men. The Shriner stands ninth on the list, ranking next to the Elk, who "takes the whole bunch home." This suggests the query, Why have the Shriners acquired such an unenviable reputation for inebriety? From our personal association with the Shriners of this town we believe them to be no more addicted to conviviality than the average run of respectable citizens. Then whence the reputation? Probably it is due chiefly to the silly notices sent out by the Record of some Temples, notices that induce the idea that wearers of the fez are a lot of irresponsible bums and Indians. It is time for mature Shrin-

ers to discountenance this damaging form of idiocy. We are glad to say that it has never found any encouragement in the mother Temple Mecca.—*Ib.*

Miscellaneous.

THE PASSING OF AUTUMN.

The Wizard has woven his ancient scheme,
A day and a starlit night.
And the world is a shadowy-pencilled dream
Of color, haze and light.

Like something an angel wrought, maybe,
To answer a fairy's whim,
A fold of an ancient tapestry,
A phantom rare and dim.

Silent and smooth as a crystal stone
The river lies serene,
And the fading hills are a jewelled throne
For the Fall and the Mist, his Queen.

Slim, as out of aerial seas,
The elms and poplars fair
Float like the dainty spirit of trees,
In the mellow, dreamlike air.

Silvery-soft by the forest side--
Wine-red, yellow, rose--
The Wizard of Autumn, faint, blue-eyed--
Swinging his censor, goes.

—*Lampman*.

NATIONAL ANTHEM--MASONIC SETTING.

The following verses, composed when William IV. was Patron of the Institution, will be found appropriate under present circumstances under the reign of His Gracious Majesty King Edward VII.

Hail ! mystic light divine,
May'st thou ne'er cease to shine
Over this land
Wisdom in thee we find,
Beauty and strength combined,
Our King and we are joined
In heart and hand.

Come, then, ye sons of light,
In joyous strains unite,
Let us all sing.
May he live long to be,
In love and unity,
Patron of Masonry :
God save the King.

—*Bro. F. Fowler, Dublin, 1835.*