

cure of the disease. In this he is far from standing alone. A large number of Grand Masters, and the vast majority of Masonic reviewers have devoted their best thought and consideration to the matter, but no specific has been discovered for the disease. No panacea has proved a positive preventative. In common with most of those who have seriously studied the prevalence of the evil with a view to its abatement, Bro. Littlejohn has arrived at certain conclusions respecting some of the means that might be adopted for lessening it. He says:—

I am of opinion that the causes for delinquency in payment of dues are sometimes local in their character and need local treatment. I therefore recommend that all Masters of Lodges give the subject earnest consideration, that they may, if possible, remove the cause. It is well to have your Lodges opened promptly at the appointed hour, and when your meetings are not to be occupied by work or business, prepare some entertainment in the way of an address, lectures, readings, or discussions that will be interesting and instructive to the members and cause them to be regular in attendance, for members who are regular in attendance will usually be also regular in the payment of their dues.

Bro. Littlejohn's suggestions are certainly worthy of consideration and adoption by all Masters of Lodges, and similar ones have been time and again urged by the present writer, both orally and in the course of former reports on correspondence. Lodge Secretaries may also do much towards the lessening of the evil, by regularly looking up non-attending members and urging prompt and systematic payment of dues, in order that the accumulation of arrearages may be as much as possible prevented. This, and the selection of competent Brethren only as officers of Lodges, are amongst the most important matters that can engage the attention of Lodges. With an incompetent master in the chair, there is no prospect of the working out of Bro. Littlejohn's excellent suggestions. When will Lodges and Brethren all vote as if they honestly believed that promotion amongst Masons should be governed by merit instead of by seniority in office?

We cannot too strongly endorse the Grand Master's protests against the un-masonic practice of caucusing and soliciting votes for official positions. Canvassing for Masonic office, either personally or by friends, marks the aspirant as unworthy of further honors in Masonry.