

THE BEST MEMBERS.

While the discussion as to who are the best members of a lodge may give room for much discussion, but when simmered down they will be found to be divided into three classes.

First, the member who is punctual, regular in his attendance and ready to take any part assigned to him.

Second, the brother who, true to his obligation, look after the sick and those in distress, and attends their every wish.

Third, the brother who is anxious to see the Order increase, who takes pride in bringing good men into the Order. It is also he who constitutes one of the financiers of the lodge, urges economy, but is liberal when it is necessary to spend a little money which will prove an investment to the lodge.

Without some one to represent all three of these important factors a lodge will become dormant. It takes a certain amount of push to create enthusiasm and then an interest is created which will increase.

It is not the best member who may attend lodge regularly, and by his harangues and lack of knowledge assume to control a lodge. He who will tire out and disgust those present, is not a good member, but perhaps he in most instances don't realize what a bore he is. In some instances his aim is good but judgment poor. Such members should be informed in a quiet way of their faults, and then if they insist on a like proceeding they should be promptly "sat upon."

It is not the good member who fails to sympathize and assist the sick and distressed. It is not the good member who will allow his brother to be slandered or who will gossip. It is not the good member who will allow his temper to dispose of good nature on a slight pretence or on an imaginary grievance. It is not a good member who will violate an obligation either as an Odd Fellow or a private citizen. It is the good member who will visit the sick, encourage and assist those in distress. He will, if in the right, protect the good name of a brother; be free from silly tales concerning the actions of others; he will reason before he gets angry, and endeavor to make his word as good as a bond, and every time he will add more admiring friends.

The good member will attend lodge as often as he can and no task will be a burden. He will show to the world the true principles of the Order and through his influence the world will see the beauties of the Order he represents and his name will be an honor.—*Colorado Odd Fellow.*

To encourage proficiency in the unwritten work the Idaho Rebekah Assembly requires every nominee for office to exemplify the work before the Assembly.

DO NOT WRONG THE LODGE.

Do not wrong the lodge by presenting a petition for membership of one whom you do not believe will make a creditable member, even though you do think "he is about as good as some others we have." That is not sufficient justification for recommending such a person. It is our duty to consider, first, the welfare of the lodge, and guard it against the intrusion of improper characters. One bad man can create a vast amount of trouble in a lodge and so seriously cripple it that it will require years of hard and faithful work to recover.

Do not wrong the lodge by remaining silent when a brother has presented the petition of one you know to be unworthy. Do not let the investigation committee remain ignorant of the facts in your possession until it is too late, and then, after he is admitted, ask "Why in the world did you take that fellow in?"

Do not fail to vote on the petition of an unworthy applicant, or voting, vote to admit such a one to the serious injury of the lodge, in order that you may boast that you "never cast a black-ball." That is a very foolish boast, and usually, he who makes it is only boasting of the fact that he has failed to do his duty.

When one has been admitted whom

you think is unfit for membership, do not go to any of the brothers and tell them, "If you are going to make a business of taking in such men as he, I don't want to stay in."—*Talisman.*

An Irish invalid returning from a health journey, remarked that he had come back another man altogether, and was quite himself again.

In youth one is surprised that he knows so much. When he has reached matured life he is surprised that there are so many things that he doesn't know.

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