

meetings held—twelve regular, and seven emergent. Owing to a very large unforeseen expenditure and new equipment, the balance at the close of the year was not so large by \$233 as in 1882; but this was no fault of the officers, who did all that lay in their power in economizing the funds. On the whole, the showing is a favorable one, and the members of 209a are to be congratulated.

The many friends of M. W. Bro. Jas. Seymour, P. G. M. and P. G. Z. of the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of Canada, will be pleased to learn that he is able to be out again. Bro. Seymour is one of those Masons whom to know is to admire and appreciate, and we only express the voice of the craft when we say, thank God that he is better. Bro. Seymour is one of those Hiramites who take an interest in every branch of Masonry, and although he has been, and is, so prominent in Craft and Capitular, he is also a most regular attendant at Great Priory, and a Past Grand Master General of the Sovereign Sanctuary of Canada.

The annual meeting of the members of the London Masonic Mutual Benefit Association took place on Wednesday the 13th February, in the Temple. From the annual reports it is learned that the total number of policy-holders at present is 1,498, of whom 114 joined during the past year. There were 143 applications, 15 of which are in the office for completion, and 10 were rejected by the medical referee. Losses by death, 26; surrendered, 5; cancelled, 1; Lapses, 78; average age, 45.82 years. Twenty-three claims were paid by assessment and three without; total amount of beneficiaries, \$82,164. Since the organization of the association in 1871, 4,270 policies have been issued; deaths and lapses, 2,772; beneficiaries paid, \$338,724.37; added to reserve fund, \$89,008.66. The most important business before the meeting was the consideration of the amendments to the constitution as suggested by the general agent.

MASONIC GEMS.

THE AMERICAN SYSTEM.—Believing the different degrees of Masonry to teach, when studied in their symbols, the hopes and promises, the faith and fears, and the trials and triumphs of the separate stages of God's dealing with mankind, I think that we can see, by the sign deposited, the connecting link in the Cryptic Rite, between the promises of the Jewish degrees, and their completion in the Christian orders, and needed our degrees to teach this connection, in lesson and lecture, in work and ritual. For they complete the ancient system, and crown the Jewish Rule; in their completion teaching the time when darkness would be scattered, as the deposit is found and the will of God revealed. For a time the temple of God is silent, in ruins, its treasures in their secret vault. Its courts have heard the tread of the despoiler as they will hear the words of the Prince of peace.—*Frederick S. Fisher, G. M., Grand Council of Vermont.*

COMPLAINTS are often made to us of what is termed injustice on the part of Masters of lodges in passing over the claims of candidates for office. A case is before us in which a brother, holding a minor office, has been denied promotion, while one below him has been advanced over his head. If the facts as stated be true, and we have no reason to doubt them, then evidently an injustice has been done. We repeat, however, what we have before stated, that the Master of a lodge is all-powerful. He is often placed in a most difficult position, and can only decide rival claims according to the facts before him. Where he honestly weighs these, and acts in conformity therewith, no fault can be found with him. Even if he does not do so, obedience or retirement are the only courses open to an objector. No Master, who values the peace and prosperity of his lodge, would pursue an irregular course. If he is led to com-