

WHAT IS REQUIRED.

Companion Thomas J. Wilder, of Dakota, commenting on the staying of a candidate on the Past Master's degree, because "the first joint of his left fore-finger was off," says:—"We know of but one rule to govern in all such cases. Can the brother conform to all the requirements of the degrees? If so, enough. Physical qualification has long been a bone of contention among Masons. How often have we seen them reject men who possessed every mental and moral qualification which the most conservative could ask for, because of some slight blemish in the hand, eye, or foot, while some half-fledged counter-jumper, without a single mental qualification, and hardly sense enough to part his hair, or, if he had, parted it in the middle, and was of no more use to the fraternity than a duck's wings are to an angel, was received with open arms, made a Mason, if such could be, and after donning a big square and compass, exhibited himself to the world as a representative of an institution which should be in the hands of men, and not under the control of simpletons. Ours is an organization which does not need numbers; there are too many now of some kinds we have. We want men; men with souls as well as bodies; men of brains, education, and ability, in whose hands the institution will be what it now is, and we trust always will be, the grandest and best in the world for the purpose for which it was designed. Then, once for all, let us settle this question as before intimated, by receiving among our members such men only as are possessed of manhood, education, and ability, with such physical qualifications as will enable them properly to conform to our rules and regulations."

MANITOBA has thirty-one lodges and 1,350 members, with a gain of 113 over the previous year. The initiations were 138.

GLEANINGS.

NEW MEXICO has thirteen lodges and 553 members, with a gain of 67 over the previous year. There were 70 initiations.

THE Masonic Seal of Erwin of Steinbach (A.D. 1275), is mentioned by Bro. Clavel as being the oldest arrangement of the compasses, square, and the letter G, extant.—*Freemasonry in Europe.*

THE Grand Master of the Operatives, as early as the fifth century, was an officer clearly recognized by royal rescript, entitled to precedence at court, when properly arrayed with his gilded staff of office. In his title of Mastership is to be found nearly the equivalent used in addressing that functionary in modern times—*Magisterium * * * Spectabilem.*—*Medieval Builders.*

GERMANY has 372 lodges, with an aggregate membership of 43,306. There are eight Grand Lodges, situated as follows:—Three in Berlin, one in Hamburg, one at Bayreuth, one at Leipsic, one at Frankfort, and another at Darmstadt. These form a confederation, named "Deutsche Grosslogenbund." Last year these Grand Lodges spent over 50,000 francs in charity.

MASONRY IN SOUTH AFRICA.—A movement, commenced in 1881, has proved to be *au fait accompli* in the constitution of a District Grand Lodge, English Constitution, for Natal Free State, Griqualand West, and Transvaal, in South Africa. There are few towns where Masonry flourishes as healthfully as it does in Cape Town. Masonic buildings, in that section, compare well with some of the handsomest structures in other countries. The Grand Lodge has instituted a Masonic Board of Education, which is in its fourth year, and out of a treasury of £400, spent £200 for education.—*Hebrew Leader.*