

lodges are entitled to participate in "all the benevolent institutions of the Grand Lodge of England." Have not some of our rather hypercritical brethren been protesting either in ignorance or overmuch?

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### GRAND LODGE OF CANADA.

The printed proceedings of Grand Lodge were received on September 21st, less than nine weeks after the annual meeting, which was held on July 18th and 19th. The proceedings consist of 274 pages, all of which, less sixteen, are devoted to the business connected with and consequent upon the Annual Communication. To give our readers some idea of the work accomplished by the Grand Secretary, Bro. J. J. Mason, in the time mentioned, not only were the minutes of the two days' sessions reported, but a complete and classified list of all the brethren in attendance was carefully prepared; a statement made out of all moneys received up to the end of the Masonic year from the 355 lodges on the roll; a list of the year's suspensions, restorations, etc.; a synopsis of returns from the subordinate lodges, showing the initiations, raisings, passings, joinings, withdrawals, deaths and restorations, and a comprehensive index.

From the returns we learn that there are 355 lodges in the jurisdiction, 260 of which were represented at the last meeting. The initiations reported for the year were 1,264; passings, 1,201; raisings, 1,095; joinings, 395; restorations, 126; resignations, 680; deaths, 213; suspensions, 583; expulsions, 1. The total members in good standing is given as 19,740, against 19,450 last year, showing a gain in membership of 290.

The present membership gives all the lodges in this jurisdiction an average of 55 members each, not a bad showing. While our membership has increased so have our resignations, deaths and suspensions. The losses last year from these causes amounted to 1,357, while this year they totalled 1,477.

St. John's Lodge, Hamilton, has the largest membership, 258; Barton, also of Hamilton, coming next, with 252; Strict Observance, another Hamilton lodge, ranking third with 213; St. John's, Toronto, follows with 198, and St. Andrews, likewise of Toronto, is next in order with 182. Seventy-two lodges reported no initiations, and in 56 there were neither initiations, passings nor raisings. The largest number of suspensions for non-payment of dues was 23, reported by Pnyx Lodge, Wallaceburg. Deaths were reported by 131 lodges, the largest number occurring among the members of Strict Observance, Barton and Acacia lodges, Hamilton, who lost six members each.

Some of the figures given should not be dismissed without a thought, especially those relating to suspensions for non-payment of dues. In many lodges the custom prevails of paying yearly, which is good enough for those who can pay in that way. But it would be better if the system were adopted of notifying each brother once a quarter, of his indebtedness, and better still if secretaries expressed their willingness to accept monthly payments. The brethren who allow their dues to fall behind are not so much to blame as is the system. Very few would object to paying monthly, or whenever they attended, but the accumulated dues are often a hardship, and difficult to wipe out without a sacrifice. Of course there is the standard argument that Freemasonry is not suited to such, and that it is no place for a poor man. That may be, but a close inspection of the list of suspended brethren will show that poor men are not the chief delinquents, and consequently if anything can be done to accommodate not