

membership by deposit of card. Every member of a Lodge has a right to deposit his ballot upon each individual application for membership, and a collective ballot would be an infringement of this right.

Sixth.—My official opinion has been requested upon the following inquiries:

First.—Can a brother become in arrears so as to disqualify him under the laws of the Lodge from receiving benefits during sickness or disability, if he is beneficial at the commencement of such sickness or disability?

Second.—If he cannot, is it competent for a Lodge to withhold the amount of his dues from his weekly benefits in order to keep him in standing?

My reply was as follows: If a brother was in good standing at the commencement of his sickness, and his Lodge should pay him his dues in full, and he should subsequently and during said sickness become in arrears so as to disqualify him by the by-laws of the Lodge from receiving benefits, I should decide that it was the fault of the Lodge in not retaining so much of his benefits as would keep him in good standing during such sickness or disability, and that the brother would not be disqualified from receiving his benefits during such sickness.

Seventh.—It has been inquired of me "whether a Subordinate Lodge, under the approval of its Grand Lodge, has not a right, by its by-laws, to provide for the balloting of brothers who apply for reinstatement, after having been suspended for non-payment of dues for an indefinite time."

The answer is furnished by the Journals. The Grand Lodge of the United States has decided, in the Cottrell case, (see Journal, volume 3, page 1504,) that the committee do not perceive any conflict between such a provision and the constitution of this Grand Lodge. The article in the constitution of Pennsylvania upon which the appeal of John Cottrell is founded refers to the suspension of members for a definite period. The Digest, page 308, article twenty-one, says: "A brother suspended for non-payment of dues loses the benefits of membership, but the body which inflicts the penalty is competent to reinstate him." Page 374, article nine, says: "Indefinite suspension of a member for non-payment of dues may be terminated by a Grand Lodge without the consent of its Subordinate." Page 417, article forty-seven, says: "To require suspended members to apply in due form for re-admission, and then subject them to the ordeal of a ballot, *though not incompatible with general law*, is in conflict with established usage and reciprocal rights of members and Lodges, and the practice should be abolished." (This refers to definite suspensions, as explained in the Digest, page 435, article twenty-two.) It must be conceded, from the authorities and decisions above quoted, that a Subordinate Lodge, under the approval of its Grand Lodge, does possess the right, an inherent right to judge of the disqualifications of all applicants for admission or reinstatement to

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