

sterling to Lodge Humanitas as the contribution of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

JURISPRUDENCE.

This department may be said, and truly, to be one of the most difficult that a Grand Master has to deal with. When the brethren get into a real old-fashioned, genuine snarl, it requires the greatest care, prudence and judgment to set matters right again. I have had during the year several cases of a most perplexing character; but by judicious treatment and the good sense and Masonic feeling of the brethren interested, I have been enabled to restore to harmony, where discord seemed to be the ruling feature.

It would answer no good purpose to go into detail, as the questions have been disposed of and judgment given, unless reopened by an appeal to Grand Lodge, through the Board of General Purposes. In one or two of these cases I was compelled to act with great promptness, in order that brethren should not suffer through irregularities, and have the constitution violated from want of knowledge how to act.

The Grand Master here gives in detail the cases upon which he was called to adjudicate, but as those are not matters of general interest to the Craft they are omitted from these columns.

DUES AND SUSPENSIONS.

This may be said now to be a burning question, and one that affects every Grand Lodge, more or less, upon this continent, and I think in none more so than our own town.

I bespeak for this subject a careful consideration by the Board of General Purposes at an early date, as suspensions are becoming far too plentiful, being nearly equal in number to our gains from all other sources, judging from last year's return to our Grand Lodge. I am of opinion that a remedy can easily be found for this state of things, and would suggest a general compromise by a payment of ten dollars by all Masons whose date of suspension goes beyond ten years, and five dollars from those under ten years, and under this arrangement the Grand Lodge to relinquish their portion of the claims against suspended Masons; and if, upon enquiry by a committee from the several Lodges, Masons are found whose characters are good, and are unable to pay the sums named, through poverty or distress, that the claims against them be cancelled, and they be invited to visit their respective Lodges as formerly. In many cases the dues have run on unpaid so long that it is utterly hopeless to expect that they will ever be settled but in some such way as I propose.

I would suggest that a system somewhat

similar to that adopted by some other Grand Lodges be pursued, that is, under no circumstances can dues accumulate longer than three years, and if not paid at that period, by resolution of the Lodge, the offending brother be declared ineligible for office or to take part in the proceedings. The above is the only punishment ever inflicted, unless able and not willing, and then the member is dealt with for unmasonic conduct; but, until such action has been taken, his membership never ceases in the Lodge he belongs to.

Again, and I am done with this branch of the subject. In this country and the United States, there is a perfect rage for what are called Masonic Rites and Degrees, which at least proves that the want of money is not the cause, at least with some, that Lodge dues are not paid. That being the case, it seems to me it would not be asking too much, and even insisting upon, if we as Craft Masons are expected to in any way recognize these rites or grades of Masonry, to ask that candidates should in every instance be affiliated and in good standing with some Blue Lodge.

I believe that if this suggestion was adopted and carried out by the different rites, it would have a most beneficial effect in teaching all candidates for higher degrees that ancient Craft Masonry was the foundation of all Masonry, and as such their members must maintain their connection with that body.

CONDITION OF MASONRY.

This branch is very properly left to the D. D. G. M.s to report upon; their knowledge of the Craft, from a constant supervision, and a residence in the respective Districts, gives them an opportunity for observation that cannot possibly be obtained by any other official within our jurisdiction. I therefore bespeak for these reports a careful perusal and consideration. My own experience, so far as I have been able to judge from the visits I have made, is that the lodges are well up in the esoteric work, and that the time has now arrived, in my opinion, when some attention should be paid to the exoteric, in the shape of lectures upon the principles of Masonry, its objects and aims, together with the duties and obligations resting upon themselves and the brethren generally. These and kindred subjects will well repay the time spent in the preparation by the Masters and Past Masters of our Lodges, and the brethren greatly interested and benefited thereby.

WARRANTS SURRENDERED.

In this connection I desire to call the attention of Grand Lodge to the correspondence that has taken place between the Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba and this Grand Lodge with reference to