

Recognition by the Chair.

It is one of the special duties of the presiding officer to keep eyes on all parts of the meeting and be quick to recognize speakers in the order in which they rise. This is a very important part of the duties of a presiding officer. It is quite a common thing to see someone who is perhaps in a more remote part of the room, rise time after time and fail to secure the recognition of the chair. Where a member has expressed a desire to speak a second time to a motion, it is in order for the presiding officer, after the discussion has continued for some time, to say, "If all members present who wish to speak to this motion have spoken, we will give three or five minutes, as the case may be, to those who wish to speak a second time." When the president makes this announcement, it will be in order for any member who has not yet spoken, and who wishes to do so, to rise to her feet, address the chair, and after she is recognized, to speak to the motion. Very much time would be saved if members would make up their minds at once whether they do or do not wish to speak upon a question. It is no uncommon thing to have an awful pause, and then, when the question is called for, have half a dozen members on their feet at once wanting to speak to it. When once the house has decided, by the method of yeas and nays, that the question before the house has been sufficiently discussed, the discussion cannot be re-opened.

While all motions of importance should come before a meeting by notice given at a previous meeting, a motion may be made even on an important matter by unanimous consent of the members, but it must be borne in mind that it must be absolutely unanimous—every member must vote. A motion must never be discussed