

COURSE OF STUDY.

C. S. KEITH, VICE-CHANCELLOR.

Bro. C. S. Keith, P. G. C. T., has been commissioned Vice-Chancellor for B. C.

It is proposed to have important graduating exercises at the Grand Lodge in 1895. Members joining the course now will be enabled to complete their readings and receive their degree by that time. The R. W. G. Templar, R. W. G. Counsellor, and P. R. W. G. T. belong to the class of 1895. Why not you? Join now.

A Catechism Explanatory of this Department of Good Templary.

(By S. B. CHASE, P. R. W. G. T., Chancellor).

1. — Ques. What is the plan of the Good Templar course of study?

Ans. It consists of three years' careful reading of certain prescribed books, and in order to bring it within the reach of those who have little time, the curriculum is so arranged that forty-five minutes each week day, during nine months in the year, will be sufficient.

2. Ques. — Who prescribes the books for each year's reading?

Ans. — The Literature Committee of the I. S. Lodge makes the selection of the books to be read, changing from time to time, as may be deemed best.

4. Ques. — What is the cost of the book?

Ans. — The books for each year, including the *International Good Templar*, and registration fee, is, for books bound in cloth, \$5.50; in paper, \$3.50.

5. Ques. — Must each student purchase a set of books?

Ans. — No; as many may read one set of books as can find it practicable so to do, but each student must pay the fifty cents registration fee each year.

6. Ques. — Is the privilege of taking the course confined to members of the Order?

Ans. — No; Any person can pursue the course; and it is desirable to induce as many as possible to take it outside the Order, for this will not only extend information upon the various subjects embraced in the course, but as such persons see the advanced position occupied by the Order, will be favorably impressed by it, as an instrument for work in the reform, and inclined to become connected therewith.

7. Ques. — Will the possession of this educational degree probably be made a requisite qualification for the more important and higher offices in our Order?

Ans. — Yes: in due time, undoubtedly the I. S. Lodge will so amend our organic law as to require all the officers in I. S. Lodge, the higher in Grand Lodge, Lecturer and Deputy G. C. T.'s to be in possession of the educational degree.

8. Ques. — Can you be enrolled as a student at any time?

Ans. — You can, though it is better to send your application to the Chancellor early in the year, so you may have ample time to read carefully all the books.

9. Ques. — What is the object of the course?

Ans. — The object of the course is to afford our membership the opportunity to become acquainted with the principles that underlie the great temperance reform, so as to be able to discuss the questions in every aspect — historical, social, scientific, economical, political, moral and religious; and thus be qualified to go forth and labor intelligently for the reform in all the avenues of life.

10. Ques. — What will be the effect of such a thorough training upon our membership?

Ans. — As the members become familiar with these fundamental truths and the standard literature of the reform, and the history, objects and teachings of the Order, they will become more interested in and love the Order better, and hence will be less likely to allow their membership to lapse from non-payment of dues or from any other cause. This will increase the average of our membership and thus render the Order more permanent.

11. Ques. — What other effect?

Ans. — The standard of the membership's knowledge will be so raised as to commend our Order to the public, and particularly to all who are friends of the reform, which will induce many and valuable additions to our members.

12. Ques. — What will be the effect upon our reformed brothers?

Ans. — As they become familiar with the effect of drink on the human system and its appalling dangers in a scientific aspect, they will be more fully determined never to touch the accursed stuff, and to fight it more earnestly than ever.

13. Ques. — Is the course adapted to our younger members?

Ans. — Bro. A'fred Cornell, of Highland Mills, N. Y., answers this when he says: "If the young members of our Order would take the course generally, I believe it would add very materially to the advancement of temperance and the final triumph of prohibition."

A sister and a mother after erasing the first year's books, "regretted that

she could not have read them earlier in life, so as to have possessed the knowledge in training her boys."

Another, and a brother who had been a drinker in former days, said "he was sure he would never have dared to touch the drink if he had read these books when a boy."

14. Ques. — May reading circles be formed in connection with the course of study; and if so, how?

Ans. — In any Lodge or place, where a sufficient number of members or others are registered as students, a local club may be formed for the purpose of prosecuting the reading of the course, and this is recommended in all cases where practicable. No particular form is prescribed for the organization of a circle. In all cases, however, where circles are formed, it is requested that the name of the same and address of the President and Secretary be forwarded to the Chancellor.

15. Ques. — What great benefit will accrue to the Lodge from the formation of a reading circle?

Ans. — It will elevate the standard of Lodge entertainments, and thereby educate and improve individual taste, raising Good Templary to a higher plane. Let us examine the matter a moment.

Suppose there is a class of ten, more or less, formed in a Lodge which meets weekly or bi-weekly, with reviews, essays, debates, recitations, etc., on the readings of the current week, and then each month or six weeks the Lodge holds public meetings, and invites the circle to prepare a programme and take charge of the entertainment, there will be furnished exercises which will be interesting and instructive, both to the Lodge and to the public, and also commendatory of the course of study to all who listen.

And if the Lodge has to buy the books and pay the registration fees of each member of the class, even then, it will be the best investment ever made, for it will afford a series of entertainments superior to any ten dollar lecture at much less price.

16. Ques. — In whom did the idea of the course have its origin, and what did he say would give it success?

Ans. — In the immortal John B. Finch, who said:

"If each Templar *does his duty* the Good Templar course of study will be even a greater success than has been the celebrated Chautauqua course. I feel like leaving all my other fields of labor, and throwing all my life into the educational forces, which yet shall redeem this country."

18. Ques. — What remark of the Chancellor on another occasion gives his views of the probable effect upon our Order of ten years' pursuit of the course of study?