

I am of the opinion that if selfishness and jealousy on the part of the members could be overcome, and a more fraternal spirit cultivated, many of the petty disputes arising among members, which are placed before your Grand Master, might be confined to the private lodges and settled satisfactorily there. This would relieve your executive head of much unnecessary worry. Let me therefore admonish you to counsel together in the spirit of fraternal love, and when disputes arise to work together in peace and unity until they are cleared away.

Suspensions and Expulsions

While there are many suspensions and expulsions reported each year for various causes, I think that in many cases a good deal of irregularities are practised in the conducting of trials, where charges are preferred against members for violation of their obligation and laws. During the past year I have felt that more definite knowledge should be given this Grand Lodge, as to how trials are conducted, whereby steps could be taken by your Grand Lodge officers to protect members against illegal suspension and expulsion. I strongly recommend that where members are tried for violation of obligation and laws that a copy of the charge, together with the evidence, be placed in the hands of the Grand Executive, to be reported on at such annual session.

The Orphanage Work

Our Orphanage has again had a full year of prosperity, and much good has been accomplished through this branch of our work. The number of children rescued and protected in the interest of Protestantism will be reported through the Board of Management. By fire we sustained a heavy loss in the total destruction of the tenant house occupied by our caretaker, but, fortunately, the building was partially covered by insurance. The re-building of this will be a matter for your consideration.

A more systematic means of raising funds for the carrying on of our Orphanage work would also be worthy of your attention. While our receipts have not been equal to that of last year, there is no reason for discouragement or alarm, as this slight falling away of receipts is only temporary, and can be traced to various causes. Upon a thorough investigation these causes will become apparent to all, and with united loyalty and energy a remedy can be provided by you at this meeting whereby the donations may be increased year by year. Had we reported a deficit in connection with our child-saving movement, I would still urge upon you the belief held by me throughout my association with you in this work, that we will never lack anything needful for the successful carrying on of this Christlike mission. Therefore, with faith in our Divine Leader, let us labor on with unselfish and devoted interest to the orphan children of our land, and let us continue to extend the hand of assistance to every child requiring our care and protection.

General Support

A society engaged in work of this kind, carrying true Christian charity outside its own little circle of membership and not permitting selfishness to stand between us and duty in the alleviation of suffering