

looking, well-to-do bachelor, and a prominent Mason, was being teased by the members of an O. E. S. club for not being married. He said: "I'll marry the one of you whom, on a secret vote, you elect to be my wife." There were nine members of the club present. Each girl went into a corner, and used great caution in preparing her ballot and disguised her handwriting. The result was that there were nine ballots cast, each girl receiving one. The man remains a bachelor, the club is broken up, and the girls all mortal enemies, united in the one determination that they will not speak to the brother again.

The applicant for degrees should be cautioned to keep the fact of his application a secret until he has received the three degrees. Nine times out of ten when the secrecy of the ballot is "violated," it comes directly or indirectly from the rejected applicant.—*The Texas Freemason*.

According to tables compiled by Bro. Stephen Berry, Grand Secretary of Maine, 18,381 brethren were suspended for non-payment of dues in the Grand Lodges of the United States during the past year.

An exchange asks, "Are there too many Masons?" We answer, No, there are not, and there cannot be, too many Masons, but there may be, and there are, too many members of the Fraternity. There are members who are not sincere in their Masonic professions, and who do not even try to practice Masonic principles. They disregard moral and Masonic obligations, and continually disgrace the Fraternity. Of that kind of members of lodges there are too many, and some thousands of them ought to be disciplined out. The *debt beat* is among them.—*Voice of Masonry*.

#### FOREIGN.

At the annual Grand Lodge meeting in Italy, E. Nathan, 33deg., was elected Most Worshipful Grand Master; E. Ferrari, 33deg., Deputy Grand Master;

Adrian Lemmi, Hon. M.W.G.M. for life.

The Rev. Bro. Haskett Smith, the Holy Land lecturer, is thoroughly unconventional in his way of putting things, and sometimes in the stories he tells astonished audiences. When in Palestine he engaged a boat to take him over the Sea of Galilee, as all devout biblical scholars think it necessary to do. The boatman, like all of his persuasion was not inclined to hurry himself. His fare stood it patiently for a while, and then inquired, "Do you always row as slowly as this?" The man slowly nodded his head in affirmation, and after a pause Rev. Bro. Haskett said: "And I suppose your ancestors didn't row any faster?" The boatman supposed they didn't. "Ah!" ruminated the passenger gravely, "then I don't wonder He got out and walked."—*Freemasons' Chronicle (Sydney)*.

The Grand Masonic fraternity in Italy are composed of three conclaves, at Naples, Palermo, and Catania. Nineteen capitals at Torino, Genova, Milano, Bari, Oosenza, Catanzarro, Peggio-Calabria, Palermo, Catadia, Cagliari, Constantinople, Cairo, and Buenos Ayres. Seven Chambers of the ninth, two of the fourth, and two symbolic. There are 250 of the first category, 22 of the second, 15 of the third, and 17 of the fourth.

Bro. General Crespo, President of the Republic of Venezuela, was elected Grand Master of the G. O. of Venezuela.

We are asked to state that the following telegram was despatched on the 23rd ult., by Bro. Sidney Holt, of the Cranbourne Lodge, to his Royal Highness, the Most Worshipful Grand Master of England. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Balmoral Castle, N.B. "At a meeting of the Cranbourne Lodge, held at Hatfield last evening, it was unanimously resolved that the hearty and respectful congratulations of the lodge be tendered to her Majesty on her having now reigned longer than any previous British Sov-