

ber the solemn promise they made: "I will ever afterwards act and abide by the ancient usages and established customs of the Order," and one of the ancient usages and customs is, all members must attend their lodge when they possibly can. Other reasons for non-attendance might be cited, but the above will suffice.

Now, if the meetings are monotonous and uninteresting, who is to blame, but the members themselves, and more especially the officers. And here we come to a very important point. As a rule, we meet, open lodge, read minutes, pass accounts, and close, barely doing anything else. Sometimes we have some work to do, then we appear so anxious to get through with it, that we call emergency meetings in order to expedite matters. At these times we congratulate ourselves on our prosperity. True, we are adding new material; but where is the old? Many lodges are conferring degrees almost every meeting-night, and on that account are considered very successful. With them there is too much work and very little recreation. Masons, like other men, enjoy sociality, and when a lodge becomes nothing more than a manufactory for making Masons, the thing becomes very tedious. I say that lodge that shows the largest attendance is the most successful. There, in all likelihood the brethren are alive to their obligation, and the programme of the evening is such that, instead of becoming monotonous, it is attractive and entertaining. There are many ways in which the few hours we are together each month could be made pleasant; and if we will only put our shoulder to the wheel, I am satisfied we will not only have an increased attendance of our own members, but will be honored by the attendance of many from our sister lodges. If our Worshipful Masters, who are placed in the East to employ and instruct the brethren, have not time to get up the lectures of the different tracing boards, per-

haps some of our Past Masters would be prepared to favor us. If not, then let portions of the lectures be read, and by way of employment and instruction let the members be catechized thereon. They will thus become acquainted with the meaning of the many signs and symbols, of the major number of which, most of us are ignorant. I would like to ask how many of our members could easily work their way into another lodge. I am sure it would bother some, and yet our lodge does not appear to care. Could not an evening be spent very profitably now and then, in having, in open lodge, two or three brothers undergo an examination on the questions asked Masons visiting strange lodges? Let one brother answer the questions for the first degree, another those of the second, and a third those of the third degree. Then again, good practice would be for the officers to vacate the chairs and have them filled by other brothers, allowing them to go through the opening and closing of the different degrees. To have success in getting the members to attend regularly, I believe they must be employed, and while so employed will not only be Masons in name, but become so in deed and act, and soon will take a lively interest in the Order, and will have a desire to get a better knowledge of its mysteries.

I must refer to one other point, and that is, the practice of canvassing for office for yourself or your friends. It is absolutely bad, and is quite contrary to the teachings of Masonry. No man can advocate his own cause or that of another, without saying something disparaging of others, and although he may think he is not doing so, he is actually doing an uncharitable act. Rather let him, no matter how anxious he may be for the office, be ready to compromise; and I think where there are several brothers eligible for the chair and willing to take it, if elected, let the senior be chosen. If everyone detested canvassing as much as I do, I am