

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- Can we expect Freemasonry to retain its past glory and prestige unless the level of leadership is raised above its present position? There is nothing wrong with our Lodge, Grand Lodge, nor with Freemasonry, that good leadership will not cure.
- How well are we guarding the West Gate? We are permitting too many to pass who can pay the fee and little else.
- Has Freemasonry become too easy to obtain? Everything is geared to speed-getting through as fast as possible and onto something else. The Lodge demands little and gets little. It expects loyalty, but does almost nothing to put a claim on a man's loyalty. When we ourselves place a cheap value on Masonic membership, how can we expect petitioners and new members to prize it?
- Instead of devoting our thoughts and energies to ways whereby a new Master Mason may find a sphere of activity within his Lodge, we let them get lost in the shuffle. Then we nag and hound them because he does not come to meetings to wander around with nothing to do.
- What can we expect when we have permitted Freemasonry to become subdivided into a score of organizations? Look at it. Each organization dependent upon the parent body for its existence, yet each jockeying for a position of supremacy, and each claiming to be the Pinnacle to which any Master Mason may aspire. We have spread ourselves thin, and Ancient Craft Masonry is the loser. Downgraded, the Symbolic Lodge is used only as a springboard. A short-sighted Craft we have been to create in our beloved Fraternity a condition wherein the tail can, and may wag the dog.
- Do we pay enough attention to the Festive Board? Should any one ask what the Festive Board is, that in itself will serve to show how far we have strayed from the traditional path of Freemasonry. Certainly the Festive Board is not the wolfing of ham sandwiches, pie and coffee at the conclusion of a degree. It is the Hour of Refreshment in all its beauty and dignity; an occasion for inspiration and fellowship; a time when the noble old traditions of the Craft are preserved.
- What has become of that "course of moral instruction, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols," that Freemasonry is supposed to be? If it is a course of instruction, then there would be teachers, and if ours in a progressive science, then the teaching of a Master Mason should not end when he is raised. Where are the parables and allegories?
- Has not the so-called Century of the Common Man contributed to making our Fraternity a little too common? We cannot expect to retain the prestige the Craft has enjoyed in the past if we continue without challenge to permit the standards of

the picnic-ground, the bowling alley, the private club and the golf links to be brought into the Lodge Hall.

- Well we are making it easier to get all 3 degrees. Why in some jurisdictions you could get the three Craft Degrees, the 32 Scottish Rite Degrees, and become a Shriner all in one weekend. Is this a case of the tail wagging the dog?

We are teaching our newest members? In most cases nothing other than the Ritual! Why?