

THE LODGE SYSTEM OF MASONIC EDUCATION

The Lodge System of Masonic Education was prepared by the Educational and Historical Commission of the Grand Lodge of Georgia for the use in the jurisdiction of that Grand Lodge. The book was revised in 1961 and has 80 pages. Copies of the book may be obtained from the Office of the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines for the price of P1.50 per copy.

The system as set forth in the book can be adapted for use in any Lodge, after making some small changes to conform to the laws and customs of the Grand Jurisdiction to which the Lodge belongs.

By way of introduction the Commission states:

"It is simple, it is practicable, it costs nothing (referring to the administration of the System), it is employed under the immediate authority and direction of the Lodge, it works at the point where education is most needed and best appreciated; namely, with the candidate, and the results, if the method is *used consistently, automatically guarantee themselves* (Italics supplied).

"The Committee recommends this system unreservedly to every Worshipful Master. It has been thoroughly tested in the Grand Jurisdiction of New York and the District of Columbia."

As to the purpose, It is based on the fact that "every candidate is a stranger to Freemasonry and Freemasonry is a stranger to him." Without guidance it is too much to expect that any man shall be able to be at home in the Order, or, unaided, to

take his proper place in the Lodge with credit to himself and honor to the society. It is realized that because of the failure of the Lodge to give the new brother the information he should receive, many come, and go, *undirected and uninstructed*, and eventually cease to attend meetings of the Lodge.

As to Method and Machinery. The Master of the Lodge appoints a committee of five, composed of Master Masons of *experience, knowledge, and tact, who feel genuine interest in their work and can be trusted not to neglect it*. After the petition has been favorably balloted upon, the Secretary notifies the petitioner to meet the committee at a designated time and place. He is given such instructions as he needs to enable him to receive the first Degree in the proper spirit, and to furnish him such information about the principles and teachings of Freemasonry as will give him a clear understanding of the kind of organization it is. Five 10-minute papers are taken up by the committee — printed in the book. The subjects of the five papers are: (1) A Short History of Freemasonry; (2) The Qualifications; and (3) The Machinery and Organization of the Lodge; (4) The Powers and Functions of the Worshipful Master; and (5) The Duties and Privileges of Lodge Membership.

The new Mason, after his initiation, is asked to meet the committee, where again he listens to five 10-minute papers, prepared to give him an idea as to what the initiation ceremonies meant. The subjects taken are: (1) The Meaning of the Term "Entered Apprentice"; (2) An Interpretation of the Ritual of the First Degree; (3) The Principal Tenets;

(4) Symbols of the First Degree;
(5) Duties, Privileges, and Limitations of the Entered Apprentice.

After being passed to the Second Degree the Fellow Craft meets the committee, where he listens to the reading, or reciting, of five 10-minute papers. He comes to understand that while the First Degree appeals principally to the conscience, the Second Degree addresses itself to the intellectual faculties, as evidenced by the emphasis on the Liberal Arts and Sciences. The subjects of the papers are: (1) Meaning of the Term "Fellow Craft"; (2) Interpretation of the Ritual of the Second Degree; (3) Symbols and Allegories of the Second Degree; (4) Duties and Privileges of the Fellow Craft, (5) The Teachings of Freemasonry.

The new brother meets the committee for the fourth time after being raised to the Third Degree. Now that he is a Master Mason he is given the information that will enable him to enter into his duties and privileges as a full member of the Institution. The five 10-minute papers he listens to are: (1) Interpretation of the Ritual of the Third Degree; (2) Symbols, Emblems, and Allegories of the Third Degree; (3) The Legend of Hiram Abif; (4) The Landmarks; (5) The Duties, Privileges, and Rights of a Master Mason.

Before the system is actually put into operation, the committee, which, to obtain the best result, should be headed by an experienced Past Master, should go over the whole book carefully and determine where and what changes should be made to conform the system to the Constitution and Laws, the usages and customs of the Grand Jurisdiction under which the Lodge works.

A. L. Corcuera

ACACIA MUTUAL AID SOCIETY INC. ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The directors elected by the members on April 29, 1966 met early last month to elect the officers of the Board and of the Company to guide the activities of the insurance firm for 1966-67. Those elected officers of the Board are: Raymond E. Wilmarth, Chairman; Luis R. Salvosa, Vice-Chairman; and Mariano Q. Tinio, Esteban Munarriz, Manuel M. Crudo, William H. Quasha, and Ceferino Villar, Members.

Elected officers of the company are: Luis R. Salvosa, President and Actuary; William H. Quasha, Vice-President and Legal Counsel; Ceferino Villar, Vice-President; Esteban Munarriz, Treasurer; and Francisco P. Inciong, Secretary.

Recently, the Board announced new benefits for the members, among which is double indemnity in case of death by accident in vehicles of public convenience. Because of a larger excess of income over expenses in the previous year, the company distributed more dividends in 1966. The officers of the company are presently engaged in a campaign to have more lodges join the group insurance plan. There are still 37 lodges which are not members of the plan.

Bro. Luis R. Salvosa, President and Actuary, hopes to see more Brothers join the individual insurance plan. The maximum total face value of policies has been raised to P10,000.00 from the previous total allowable of P6,000.00. Bro. Salvosa reminds the brethren that members of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, members of their families and sojourners in the Philippines are qualified to join the Acacia Mutual Aid Society, Inc. △