

Article 108, Book of Constitutions.

"Great discredit and injury having been brought upon our Antient and Honourable Fraternity from passing and raising Masons without due instruction in the respective Degrees, it is declared to be especially incumbent on all members of Lodges to see that particular attention be paid to these points."

Extract from an article by Bro. Lister Salisbury published in the "Freemason" 11th March 1933.



Too many men are pitchforked into Freemasonry without adequate instruction or information about our Fraternity and left to "sink or swim." From my personal observation I should place the proportion of the "swimmers" at about one in twenty as compared with those who, bored by an incessant round of ceremonies, fall away into the "sinkers" category. Masonry has a standard which is its due, as well as its duty. To obtain and maintain such a standard there must be definite instruction to the Brethren as to the meanings of all those things which we do in our Temples. It is not sufficient just to keep working Ceremonial Degrees. After a few years of Masonry - as it is worked to-day, especially in the Metropolis - quite a number of Brethren become bankrupt in Masonic thought, and, from lack of interest, either resign - or worse still become resigned.

In a speech made before a Masonic Research Society in the North of England, the M.W. the Pro. Grand Master, Lord Asphill, drew the attention of his audience to the fact that "Masonry is a progressive science"; that our candidates are definitely exhorted "to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge"; but that the average Lodge engrossed in the perpetual round of "making Masons" does nothing whatever to afford any of its candidates such instruction.

The so called Lodges of Instruction become all too often mere "Officers Training Corps" with their whole time and energies expended in rehearsing ceremonies with a view to absolute word

Copyright Worcester-shire Masonic Library and Museum Trust

perfection - a craze that has become a positive bane in London.
Instruction - real instruction - has been deposed by drill, and the
Preceptor has been degraded to a mere "Sergeant-Major".

The average Lodge does not require or expect a Lecture
by learned expositionists of the Ars Quamtor Coronatorum or
Prestonian variety. Something much more simple and homely should
be provided Short explanations of the origin and symbolism
of those details carried out in our rituals In lecturing, as
in most other things, the greatest things are often the simplest,
and we want no impassioned floods of oratory - just plain unvar-
nished lectures.

Copyright Worcestershire Masonic
Library and Museum Trust