

What makes the record of a man's life

The "Obituaries" Committee was another that did good service in presenting an instructive report, free from the mawkish sentiment that too often mars the well-meant intentions of the recorder. The reasons for the departure from the beaten rut are honest, and must appeal to those whose inclination to weep is not to be sounded by the application of a sympathetic drill.

"The report of this committee cannot be put in the category of news. Whatever utility it has must be along the line of teaching by example. And there can be no teaching by example without pertinent facts whose recital suggests the desired admonition.

"Genealogical details, for instance, are not pertinent facts. In Masonry, if anywhere, is every man 'the son of his own works.' Neither are exhibitions of skill in funeral rhetoric, or of deftness in culling flowers from the gardens of the elegiac muse.

"What a man did for his country, his fellow men, and the Masonic institution are what makes the record of his life worth the making and the reading of that record profitable instruction. Those near may and do value a man for what he is. Those distant, and beyond the touch of personality, can value him only for what he does."

Sources:

Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada at the annual convocation, 1913 report on Foreign Correspondence - ILLINOIS