

# The Discoverer

The Monthly Newsletter of The Lodge of Discovery

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## Greetings Brethren,

**The festive season is almost on us once more—where does the time go? To all our readers may you have safe and splendid holiday period.**

**Page 10 has a collage of photos from Suango School which has now been officially handed over..**

**Season's greetings to you all.**

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Time out  
with a cold  
beer or 3!!

**Vanuatu**



## Membership e-mail address list

A list of current members and their e-mail addresses is available on request.

**A Merry Xmas and a  
Happy New Year**



## THE SQUARE

"Acting upon the square" is a familiar metaphor for fair and honest dealings with others. The square has carried that meaning for many generations as evidenced by writings traced to ancient China. In the Great Learning, it is stated that abstaining from doing unto others what one would not have them do to him "is called the principle of acting on the square." We might recognize the positive form of this saying as the Golden Rule, "do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

The Square is prominent throughout the rituals and ceremonies of Freemasonry and is one of the first symbols introduced and explained to the Freemason. During the initiation ceremony, the new Freemason is told the Square should remind him to conduct his life upon the square, indicating moral and ethical behaviour. During the Lecture, the Square is described as part of the Furniture of the Lodge dedicated to the Master, as it is the Masonic emblem of his office. It is also one of the six Jewels of the Lodge, teaching morality. The Square is also identified as one of the Working Tools of the Fellowcraft Mason, where it admonishes the Freemason to square his "actions by the Square of Virtue."

The Square, as used in Freemasonry, is an instrument with two legs that intersect at a right angle. Though there is debate regarding the exact instrument envisioned in the early rituals, there is no doubt that the square was used to measure the accuracy of angles, to ensure that they were indeed right angles. As such, it is natural for the Square to be an emblem of accuracy, integrity, and rightness. As building materials are cut to fit the building in the proper dimensions, we must also build our character, which must be tested by a moral and ethical standard represented by the Square.

From early times, the square has represented right and honesty. For Freemasons, the Square represents morality, of the ethical and right conduct that must form the basis for our every action and as the foundation of society. In an early exposure of the Masonic ritual, the question is asked, "How many make a Lodge?" The response is specific, "God and the Square." Together, God provides instruction to man to develop his moral and spiritual character, while the Square reminds us as Freemasons that we must constantly test our behaviour by the Square of Virtue.

It is also important to note that we must keep God and the Square together. While the Square is an emblem of the virtuous moral, ethical, and spiritual conduct required of all Freemasons, it is our faith in God that provides the basis for that behaviour. If society is not careful and loses its faith in God, then its foundation for moral and ethical conduct drifts from that decreed by God. When this occurs, men come to think that morality is of human invention and the moral law loses its meaning and power. It leads to a society without standards, which will become unstable and eventually fall.

How simple is the Square, revealing the oldest wisdom of man and the very genius of Freemasonry. As evidenced by our usage, the Square rules the Freemason as well as the Lodge in which he labours. The candidate enters a rectangular Lodge and walks a circuit with squared steps. He is brought to light to observe the Square upon the Altar and observes the Master wearing the Square, as the emblem of his office. Freemasonry is not just a ritual. It is a way of life, a way of living. It provides moral and ethical instruction based upon a faith in God that allows us as Freemasons to build our moral and spiritual character. Each of us has our own Square within us, our conscience, which we must use to test our every thought, action, and word to determine if it is true by the Square of Virtue.

The Square is a symbol of the moral law upon which human life must rest if it is to stand. Without the moral law as our guide, we flounder and fall in this world. If the Freemason does not build his ethical and spiritual character upon the moral law and live in obedience to the laws of God, our lives are incomplete and doomed to failure. David in Psalm 15:1 writes, "Lord, who shall abide in your Tabernacle? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth..." It is our obligation as Freemasons to "square our actions by the Square of Virtue" in all our dealings with our fellowman. If we "act by the Square," our moral and ethical character will be above reproach and we will have a stable and content life.

It is fitting to close this discussion of the Square with the following poem penned by an unknown poet:

*It matters not whate'er your lot or what your task may be,  
One duty there remains for you, one duty stands for me.  
Be you a doctor skilled and wise, or do your work for wage,  
A labourer upon the street, an artist on the stage;*

*One glory still awaits for you, one honor that is fair,  
To have men say as you pass by: "That Fellow's on the Square."  
Ah, here's a phrase that stands for much, 'tis good old English, too;  
It means that men have confidence in everything you do.*

*It means that what you have earned, and that you've done your best,  
And when you go to sleep at night, untroubled you may rest.  
It means that conscience is your guide, and honor is your care;  
There is no greater praise that this: "That Fellow's on the Square."*

*And when I die I would not wish a lengthy epitaph;  
I do not want a headstone large, carved with fulsome chaff.  
Pick out no single deed of mine, if such a deed there be,  
To 'grave upon my monument, for those who come to see.*

*Just this one phrase of all I choose, to show my life was fair:  
"Here sleepeth now a Fellow who was always on the Square."*





## NOW IS THE HOUR

by Charles R. Glassmlre

We are always thinking in Masonry about the word "building." We are told that Masons are builders. Yet how often do we ever stop and think of the true meanings of this word? We should consider it under four headings.

First, we must consider the building of the vast universe; that product of the Grand Architect of the Universe; that inestimable gift of God to Man; that structure which we use every day but seldom do we stop to appreciate it and to give thanks.

Sometime ago, a group of us stood atop Mount Blanc, at an altitude of 15,000 feet, viewing the majestic Alps. The beautiful fertile valley lay below us with the glaciers above. It was very easy to be awe struck, to close your eyes and to give a prayer of thanks to Almighty God.

How often in our own communities do we ever look around us and give thanks for the things that do not have actual physical beauty and yet see beneath them the handiwork of the Great Architect of the Universe?

Yes, even sometimes in things which are actually ugly to the sight. Who can look at the town drunk, for instance, and see in him a work of God? Yes, it's a work of God but a neglect of man and perhaps we are largely responsible for much of this neglect.

We pass him day by day lying in the gutter, when perhaps by stretching forth a helping hand, giving a pat on the back or a word of encouragement, we might help that man to achieve his rightful place in society, all to the glory of God. It's up to us to help make this universe the place that He intended it to be!!!!!!!

Secondly, if we're thinking in terms of building, we must think in terms of the fact that man is a builder and from the day of his birth he is constantly engaged in the building of his own personality and his own character. Every day we have the opportunity to do things which will make us better individuals but so many times we neglect it. There is an old saying which says:- "What man needs not nor sows most abundantly grows."

This, of course, in one connotation refers to the weeds in that neglected garden behind the house. But think for a moment of the neglect which permits those weeds to grow inside the mind and the character of each and every one of us. Before long, just as the beautiful flowers are destroyed by the weeds in the garden, so is that great mind which is potentially there destroyed by the weeds of neglect.

A little poem says it better:-

*Of all that I hear and see  
Day by day I am building me.  
I alone have the right to choose  
What to reject and what to use.  
Nobody's workmanship but mine  
Can keep the structure true and fine, Strong or feeble, false or true.  
I build myself by the deeds I do.*

Yes, Brethren, remember we are saved not by what we think but by what we are. Day by day we build ourselves by the deeds we do.

Next, if we are going to consider man as a builder, we must appreciate the fact that man is also commissioned to build an ideal social structure and Masons must qualify as living stones for that structure if it is going to be the society it can be. We have another great responsibility as Masons. We tell the world that as Masons we take good men and make them better. Are we really doing this today in Masonry?

How many times have we had the unpleasant experience of raising a Brother from that Altar and having him go out the door and never seeing him again? Statistically, one out of three of the Brethren that are raised at that Altar will leave that night and never come back. Why? The answer is obvious and perhaps falls into two categories.

First of all, we have lost the opportunity by failing to impress upon him the beauties of Freemasonry. We have perhaps done the work in a slipshod fashion. Officers have mumbled the words which have been poorly memorized and the Brother gets very little from it. He sees nothing that you and I have seen as we have gone through Masonry of the things which bring us back.

Secondly, so many times the man's dignity is insulted. How often have we unfortunately seen a man literally ridiculed for the amusement of some of the Brethren about the Lodge. We tell a man to kneel at the Altar and pray to Almighty God and then tell him to arise, follow the conductor and fear no danger, only at a later date to have him treated in such a manner that he can't see the beauties because of the lack of dignity.

We are told that of those who do come back, another third are leaving within a year. Once again, the opportunity is lost. No man becomes a Mason simply by taking three degrees any more than a man becomes a Christian simply by joining a church. It requires work.

It requires work on his part and it requires work on our part. Firstly to impart the knowledge to him, and secondly to give him a job to do. Only if he is kept busy will he return as you and I have done. Yes, we can take good men and make them better and we have the tools with which to work right there on the Altar.

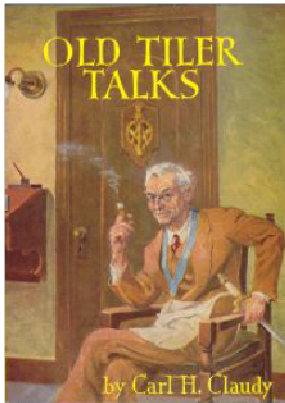
That great American poet, Brother Edwin Markham, put it in verse this way:

*We are blind until we see  
That in the human plan  
Nothing is worth the making if It does not make the man.  
Why build these cities glorious if man unbuilt goes?  
In vain we build the work unless The builder also grows.*

Lastly, my Brethren, as we speak in terms of building, we must appreciate the fact that from the moment we are born until the day we die we are constantly engaged in the building of that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. How many of us go through life consciously building that house?

As young men we're immortal. No young man ever thinks of the possibility of dying. It's only when we get older that we realize that we cannot expect an exemption from the common fate of man, but sometimes by the time that realization comes, it's too late, and we have not begun, let alone finished, the building of that house not made with hands. I suggest to you that if you have not started building it yet, now is the hour. We are very fortunate to have religion to assist us in this and I don't mean necessarily the membership in any particular church or sect. I'm thinking in terms of the definition of religion which says,

**"Religion is the life of God in the soul of Man"**



## Old Tiler Talks— BOOK UPON THE ALTAR

"I heard the most curious tale," began the New Brother seating himself beside the Old Tiler during refreshment.

"Shoot!" commanded the Old Tiler.

"Friend of mine belongs to a midwest lodge. Seems they elected a chap to become a member but when he took the degree he stopped the work to ask for the Koran in place of the Bible on the Altar. Said he wanted to the holy book of his faith, and the bible wasn't it!"

"Yes, go on," prompted the Old Tiler. "What did they do?"

"The officers held a pow-wow and the Master finally decided that as the ritual demanded the 'Holy Bible, Square and Compasses' as furniture for the lodge, the applicant was wrong and that he'd have to use the Bible or not take his degree. And the funny part was that the initiate was satisfied and took his degree with the Bible on the Altar. I'm glad they have him, and not this lodge."

"Why?"

"Why, a chap who backs down that way can't have very much courage; I'd have had more respect for him if he'd insisted and if he couldn't have his way, refused to go on with the degree."

"All wrong, brother, all wrong!" commented the Old Tiler. "The Mohammedan initiate wasn't concerned about himself but about the lodge. He showed a high degree of Masonic principle in asking for his own holy book, and a great consideration for the lodge. This man isn't a Christian. He doesn't believe in Christ. He believes in Allah and Mohammed his prophet. The Bible, to you a holy book, is to him no more than the Koran is to you. You wouldn't regard an obligation taken on a dictionary or a cook book or a Koran as binding, in the same degree that you would one taken on the Bible.

"That's the way this chap felt. He wanted to take his obligation so that it would bind his conscience. The Master would not let him, because he slavishly followed the words of the ritual instead of the spirit of Masonry.

"Masonry does not limit an applicant to his choice of a name for a Supreme Being. I can believe in Allah, or Buddha, or Confucius, or Mithra, or Christ, or Siva, or Brahma, or Jehovah, and be a good Mason. If I believe in a Great Architect that is all Masonry demands; my brethren do not care what I name him."

"Then you think this chap isn't really obligated? I must write my friend and warn him-"

"Softly, softly! Any man with enough reverence for Masonry, in advance of knowledge of it, to want his own holy book on which to take an obligation would feel himself morally obligated to keep his word, whether there was his, another's or no holy book at all, on the Altar. An oath is not really binding because of the book beneath your hand. It is the spirit with which you assume an obligation which makes it binding. The book is but a symbol that you make your promise in the presence of the God you revere. The cement of brotherly love which we spread is not material- the working tools of a Master Mason are not used upon stone but upon human hearts. Your brother did his best to conform to the spirit of our usages in asking for the book he had been taught to revere. Failing in that through no fault of his own, doubtless he took his obligation with a sincere belief in its sacredness. Legally he would not be considered to commit perjury if he asked for his own book and was forced to use another." "What's the law got to do with it?"

"Just nothing at all, which is the point I make. In England and America, Canada and South America, Australia, and part of the Continent, the bible is universally used. In Scottish Rite bodies you will find many holy books; but let me ask you this; when our ancient brethren met on hills and in valleys, long before Christ, did they use the New Testament on their Altars? Of course not; there was none. You can say that they used the Old Testament and I can say they used the Talmud and someone else can say they used none at all, and all of us are right as the other. But they used a reverence for sacred things.

"If you write your friend, you might tell him that the ritual which permits a man to name his God as he pleases, but demands that a book which reveres one particular God be used, is faulty. The ritual of Masonry is faulty; it was made by man. But the spirit of Masonry is divine; it comes from men's hearts. If obligation and books and names of the Deity are matters of the spirit, every condition is satisfied. If I was Master and an applicant demanded any one or any six books on which to lay his hand while he pledges himself to us, I'd get them if they were to be had, and I'd tell my lodge what a reverent Masonic spirit was in the man who asked."

"Seems to me you believe in a lot of funny things; how many gods do you believe in?"

"There is but one," was the Old Tiler's answer, "Call Him what you will. Let me repeat a little bit of verse for you:

At the Muezzin's call for prayer  
The kneeling faithful thronged the square;  
Amid a monastery's weeds,  
An old Franciscan told his beads,

While on Pushkara's lofty height  
A dark priest chanted Brahma's might,  
While to the synagogue there came  
A Jew, to praise Jehovah's Name.

The One Great God looked down and smiled  
And counted each His loving child;  
For Turk and Brahmin, monk and Jew  
Has reached Him through the gods they knew.

"If we reach Him in Masonry, it makes little difference by what sacred name we arrive," finished the Old Tiler, reverently.

"You reached me, anyhow," said the New Brother, shaking hands as if he meant it.

### *Six Little Stories*

{1} Once all villagers decided to pray for rain, on the day of prayer all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That's **FAITH**

{2} When you throw a baby in the air, she laughs because she knows you will catch her. That's **TRUST**

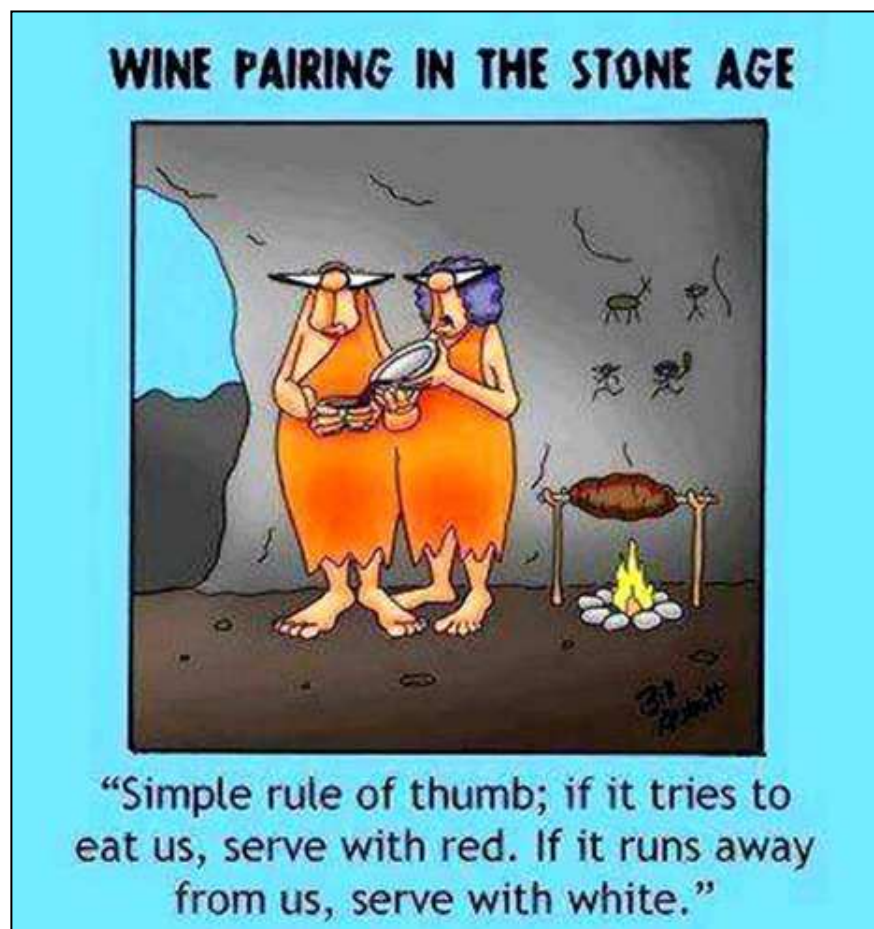
{3} Every night we go to bed, without any assurance of being alive the next morning but still we set the alarms to wake up. That's **HOPE**

{4} We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That's **CONFIDENCE**

{5} We see the world suffering, but still we get married and have children. That's **LOVE**

{6} On an old man's shirt was written a sentence 'I am not 80 years old....I am sweet 16 with 64 years experience' That's **ATTITUDE**

*Have a happy day, live your life like the six stories!*





## The Ancient use of The Cable-Tow

What do we mean, when in our lodges we talk of "the length of their cable tow"? Many centuries ago any yarn, fiber or string was called "tau". Sometimes people would use several pieces of "tau" and weave or twist them into a rope. This process was then known as cabling. The result was a "cabled-tau". The builders of the great cathedrals used "cabled-tau" for walls of cathedrals where an early form of scaffolding was built. In those days there were, of course, no occupational health standards, and climbing flimsy scaffolding with heavy tools or mortar would not be safe. Lifting tools with a "cabled-tau" would be much safer. The length of a worker's "cable-tau" determined how high he could climb before hauling up his tools. The length of one's "cabled-tau" limited the height to which a worker could safely climb. An inexperienced workman would have a very short "cabled-tau" until he learned his trade well and could climb higher. A builder, then, could not work beyond the length of his "cabled-tau" and the length of his "cabled-tau" might serve as a mark of a working man's ability.

## "Bringing Masonry to Lodge"

We must ever remember that Masonry is men who are Masons. The good of an institution must always result from the acts and deeds of the members of such an organization. The Masonic Institution is the achievement of Masons.

Many times the question is asked: "What degree are they going to work tonight?" Perhaps the brother who asks the question is interested in witnessing one particular degree and prefers not to attend unless that degree is going to be conferred. Still, there is a mighty impersonal ring to the word "they." Many other times the question is: "What are they going to do tonight?"

We cannot leave ourselves out of the lodge. Whether or not we attend regularly, we are forever a part of the lodge. We are its success and its failure. We contribute, or we fail to contribute to its welfare.

The degree that is to be conferred, the business meeting that is to be held, or the program that is to be presented -all are important, but they are secondary to the question: "What will I bring to lodge tonight?"

The spirit of brotherly love, the warm and friendly handshake, the smile that reflects the Mystic Tie -all that I am capable of bringing to lodge -are the important factors.

*Dewey Wollstein 1953*

### Lodge Birthdays

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| <b>Alan Churchill</b> | <b>33</b> |
| <b>Peter Wilson</b>   | <b>32</b> |

### News from the South

It was great to see W. Bro. Allan Sands back in Lodge for the November meeting after such a long absence for medical treatment.

It is with regret that I have to advise you of the passing of Mrs. Julia Patterson, mother of Bro. John. Julia was aged 88. Requiescat en pace.





**Lodge of  
Discovery**

Port Vila, Vanuatu



**Lodge of Discovery 8737 EC and Suango School, Mele**



**FOR THOSE WHO LOVE THE PHILOSOPHY OF AMBIGUITY, AS WELL AS  
THE IDIOSYNCRASIES OF ENGLISH:**

1. ONE TEQUILA, TWO TEQUILA, THREE TEQUILA.....FLOOR.
2. ATHEISM IS A NON-PROPHET ORGANIZATION.
3. IF MAN EVOLVED FROM MONKEYS AND APES, WHY DO WE STILL HAVE MONKEYS AND APES?
4. THE MAIN REASON THAT SANTA IS SO JOLLY IS BECAUSE HE KNOWS WHERE ALL THE BAD GIRLS LIVE.
5. I WENT TO A BOOKSTORE AND ASKED THE SALESWOMAN, "WHERE'S THE SELF- HELP SECTION?" SHE SAID IF SHE TOLD ME, IT WOULD DEFEAT THE PURPOSE.
6. WHAT IF THERE WERE NO HYPOTHETICAL QUESTIONS?
7. IF A DEAF CHILD SIGNS SWEAR WORDS, DOES HIS MOTHER WASH HIS HANDS WITH SOAP?
8. IF SOMEONE WITH MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES THREATENS TO KILL HIMSELF, IS IT CONSIDERED A HOSTAGE SITUATION?
9. IS THERE ANOTHER WORD FOR SYNONYM?
10. WHERE DO FOREST RANGERS GO TO GET AWAY FROM IT ALL?
11. WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU SEE AN ENDANGERED ANIMAL EATING AN ENDANGERED PLANT?
12. IF A PARSLEY FARMER IS SUED, CAN THEY GARNISH HIS WAGES?
13. WOULD A FLY WITHOUT WINGS BE CALLED A WALK?
14. WHY DO THEY LOCK GAS STATION BATHROOMS? ARE THEY AFRAID SOMEONE WILL BREAK-IN AND CLEAN THEM?
15. IF A TURTLE DOESN'T HAVE A SHELL, IS HE HOMELESS OR NAKED?
16. CAN VEGETARIANS EAT ANIMAL CRACKERS?
17. IF THE POLICE ARREST A MUTE, DO THEY TELL HIM HE HAS THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT?
18. WHY DO THEY PUT BRAILLE ON THE DRIVE-THROUGH BANK MACHINES?
19. HOW DO THEY GET DEER TO CROSS THE ROAD ONLY AT THOSE YELLOW ROAD SIGNS?
20. WHAT WAS THE BEST THING BEFORE SLICED BREAD?
21. ONE NICE THING ABOUT EGOTISTS: THEY DON'T TALK ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE.

22. DOES THE LITTLE MERMAID WEAR AN ALGEBRA? (This one took me a minute)
  23. DO INFANTS ENJOY INFANCY AS MUCH AS ADULTS ENJOY ADULTERY?
  24. HOW IS IT POSSIBLE TO HAVE A CIVIL WAR?
  25. IF ONE SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMER DROWNS, DO THE REST DROWN TOO?
  26. IF YOU ATE BOTH PASTA AND ANTIPASTO, WOULD YOU STILL BE HUNGRY?
  27. IF YOU TRY TO FAIL, AND SUCCEED, WHICH HAVE YOU DONE?
  28. WHOSE CRUEL IDEA WAS IT FOR THE WORD 'LISP' TO HAVE 'S' IN IT?
  29. WHY ARE HEMORRHOIDS CALLED "HEMORRHOIDS" INSTEAD OF "ASSTEROIDS"?
  30. WHY IS IT CALLED TOURIST SEASON IF WE CAN'T SHOOT AT THEM?
  31. WHY IS THERE AN EXPIRATION DATE ON SOUR CREAM?
  32. IF YOU SPIN AN ORIENTAL MAN IN A CIRCLE THREE TIMES, DOES HE BECOME DISORIENTED?
  33. CAN AN ATHEIST GET INSURANCE AGAINST ACTS OF GOD?
- 

A Brother was driving home after a Lodge meeting and a festive board which had consisted on many takings of wine. Sure enough a blue light followed the car, and he pulled over to the side of the road. Thinking that the policeman might be a Freemason, he placed his driving license and insurance documents in his ritual book.

When the police officer asked for his driving license he made a great play of taking it from his ritual book, but the policeman made no reaction whatsoever. The same with his insurance documents.

He was then asked to blow into the breathalyser which proved positive. He gave the sign of distress, which was ignored. The policeman started to write notes in his pocket book. At this point, the Brother needed to go to the toilet, so asked the Police Officer if he could retire to the bushes in order to restore himself to his personal comforts.

The officer replied "Certainly sir, and on your return, I shall read to you a charge....."

# A very merry Christmas



The Royal College of Nursing has weighed in on Prime Minister David Cameron's health care proposals for the NHS.

The Allergists voted to scratch it, but the

Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves.

The Gastroenterologists had a sort of a gut feeling about it, but the

Neurologists thought the Administration had a lot of nerve.

The Obstetricians felt they were all labouring under a misconception.

Ophthalmologists considered the idea short-sighted.

Pathologists yelled, "Over my dead body!" while the

Paediatricians said, "Oh, Grow up!"

The Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness, while the

Radiologists could see right through it.

The Surgeons were fed up with the cuts and decided to wash their hands of the whole thing.

The ENT specialists didn't swallow it, and just wouldn't hear of it.

The Pharmacists thought it was a bitter pill to swallow, and the

Plastic Surgeons said, "This puts a whole new face on the matter...."

The Podiatrists thought it was a step forward, but the

Urologists were pissed off at the whole idea.

The Anaesthetists thought the whole idea was a gas, but the

Cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no.

In the end, the Proctologists won out, leaving the entire decision up to the arseholes in White-hall!



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Old Grandad was recovering from an operation. As he lay in his hospital bed his grandchildren came in to see him. The old fellow looked up and said, "Same old family. None of you remembered it's my birthday." The relatives were somewhat ashamed at this, and one of them said, "We would have got you something, granddad, but we forgot." "Yeah, I know," said Grandad., " I forgot to marry your grandmother too." Shocked, the group said in unison, "You mean that we're.....?" "Yep, said Grandad, eyeing the group coldly, "and damned cheap ones too."

