

How Should the President View His Club?

One characteristic of a Rotary club is the diversity of occupation and interest represented in its membership. Through the fellowship of its meetings, another characteristic, the desire of all members to be of service to their fellowmen is aroused and developed. The club is a training group for service. In the process of mutual training for service, the club may occasionally apply its efforts as a club to some particular project. In general, however, its recognized function is to keep its members informed as to opportunities and ways to serve, and to stimulate them to service where they can help most effectively.

These opportunities for service, while innumerable, all belong in one or another of the divisions defined by the four objects of Rotary. And these are the objects not only of Rotary International. They have been adopted also by each Rotary club and accepted as

the obligation of each Rotarian. The president must lead; he must give the guidance needed to keep his club moving in the direction of those four objects.

Rotary's strength and astonishing growth are due largely to the success Rotary clubs have had in uniting their members in a common purpose while expecting and encouraging them to carry out that purpose individually according to their respective interests and abilities. Thus we find men of various races, creeds, and points of view working in sympathy and accomplishing far more than could be achieved under any plan which required unanimous consent.

The club president's opportunity to direct and to further this process of getting agreement on purpose and variety in method may prove to be his greatest reward and his most lasting satisfaction.

The President's Preparation for His Office

The responsibility which a Rotarian assumes in accepting the presidency of his club gives a new significance even to familiar aspects of the Rotary program.

Attending the District Conference

In all probability, the district conference will be held shortly after the club elections. The president elect will find in this event a fine opportunity to begin preparing for his coming duties of office. Here he may consult with the district governor whose contacts with all the clubs in the district make his advice full of practical help. Here he will meet other presidents-elect wanting to exchange ideas.

On the conference program, information and inspiration will be provided by the governor, the representative of R.I. and other speakers, and by the exchange of ideas in group assemblies. At the district conference also, the new president will have his first contacts with the governor nominee, the dis-

trict's own selection as its leader for the coming year. Fortunate will be the president elect who attends the district conference accompanied by his fellow officers, directors and committeemen. Under such circumstances a considerable measure of success for his administration is almost certain.

Attending Board Meetings

While the president elect is without authority until his term of office begins, he may be invited to sit with the board between his election and his installation as president. This will give him a desirable understanding of club business. Likewise, he may wish to call together the incoming board for an informal (unofficial) meeting, and thus be prepared to carry on with little or no loss of time when the club year begins.

Preparation by Reading

In the period between his election and his assuming office, the president elect should find time to become acquainted