

## TRACING BOARD

The greatest symbol on the Second Degree Tracing Board is the winding staircase. Its seven steps represent the seven liberal arts and sciences we have referred to, and symbolise the ultimate attainment of a Fellow Craft Freemason.

The seven steps are interdependent and are strung together as follows: 'Grammar' is the foundation of language, which enables us to communicate and broaden our knowledge.

The art of speaking fluently is 'Rhetoric', but without 'Logic' the previous two are just an empty, senseless flow of words.

The exchange of knowledge allows you to learn to compare. The science of comparison is 'Arithmetic'.

The fifth step, five being the predominant number of this Degree, is 'Geometry' which is established as the basis of our art. Geometry has been described as the science of harmony in space. Its laws apply equally to the minute world of atomic physics and to the immense world of astronomy.

'Music' is the geometry of sound. Every note in the musical scale is exactly double the wavelength of the corresponding note in the preceding octave, and each note in a scale is a logarithmic progression. Music moves in measured steps and cannot free itself from geometry without dissolving into discord.

The seventh step - the uppermost step, is 'Astronomy'. From here we contemplate the wonder and the awesome magnitude of the Heavens. As we battle to understand infinity with our finite minds, it should help to put the rest of our lives into better perspective and assist in expanding our personal horizons.

