

Notes and Items.

At Home and Abroad.

SWANSEA, ENGLAND, has decided to abandon municipal insurance.

THE MUTUAL RESERVE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY has been licensed to transact business in the State of Indiana, as a regular old line Company.

TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS have passed between Leeds and Liverpool, and Paris, France, a distance of 500 miles. With wires adapted for the purpose a telephone service can be conducted for longer distances.

THE MONTHLY LETTER OF MR. TARBELL, 2nd vice-president of the Equitable Life, is a homily on the virtue of thrift. He strongly urges the agents to acquire the habit of laying aside something every month. Saving is a habit which can be acquired, and once gained is hard to lose.

THE CINCINNATI FIRE LOSS for July is placed at \$80,000. The reduction in fire loss is attributed to the new system of inspections by firemen. Captain Conway, of the Salvage Corps, secured the co-operation of the Mayor of the city, with the result that certain risks considered hazardous are daily inspected by firemen.

DR. E. SYMES THOMPSON, Gresham Professor of Medicine, says, with regard to the relative fuel value of food, that butter comes first, then peas, cheese, bread, eggs, beef, potatoes, milk, coffee, and apples last. In 1 lb. of butter there is as much energy as there is in 3 lbs. of cheese and 5 lbs. of beef. These statements are not reliable, for constitutions vary so much that, literally, "one man's meat is another man's poison."

BRITISH OFFICIAL FIGURES show that the cancer death rate has doubled in last 30 years. In years 1861-1870 the average annual death rate from cancer per million living was, males, 242; females, 519; in 1891-1900, the averages were, males, 597; females, 903. Doctors differ very widely in regard to causes of this disease and its increase, some say, poverty of blood, others over-richness of blood; such wide divergencies prove that nothing is positively known.

AT THE INSTITUTE OF MUNICIPAL TREASURERS held last month, at Hull, a paper on Municipal Insurance was read. The author said: "The necessary safeguard which was insisted upon by all insurance companies, namely, that the risks should be spread over as wide an area as possible, was entirely lacking in a scheme for the insurance of municipal property only; therefore, on that ground it was to be condemned. No good purpose would be served by carrying that part of the subject any further, unless it could be made to extend to all municipal buildings throughout the Kingdom, and then, of course, the risk would be an ideal one. If municipalities could obtain legal power to carry on the business of fire insurance for the whole of the property within the borough, the saving to policy-holders would be very great indeed, but it would be quite useless for any single corporation to attempt to procure such powers." The author then turned round on himself by asserting that municipal assurance would effect great savings to corporations. Several delegates poked fun at the proposal, and a motion to refer the matter to the Council was defeated.

THE DEFALCATION OF CHARLES A. PERKINS, cashier of the Cedar Rapids office of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co., of Milwaukee, will run over \$80,000. The loss will fall upon General Agent H. A. Munger, and not on the company. Perkins lost the money in speculation. He has turned over all his securities, which have a face value of \$100,000, to Mr. Munger. So reports the "Weekly Underwriter."

What sort of management is it that gives the opportunity for such large frauds? It is better for all concerned for such chances not to be given.

THE INTERESTS OF THE BRITISH OFFICES in the properties recently destroyed and damaged by the fire at Capetown, are reported to have been approximately as follows:

Guardian.....	£62,000	Manchester.....	£64,000
Norwich Union..	17,000	Alliance.....	8,000
Imperial.....	13,000	North British.....	16,000
Phoenix.....	7,000	Lon. & Lancashire...	3,500
Royal.....	37,000	Sun.....	2,000
Northern.....	14,000	Royal Exchange.....	2,000
Commercial Union...	6,500		

The average loss on the above total commitments, which are gross figures before deducting re-insurance equals nearly 45 per cent.

AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS for the welfare and protection of children recently held in Exeter hall, London, Dr. Kelynaek read a paper on "Infant Life Protection," contending that the chief causes of excessive infantile mortality arose from the ignorance, inexperience, apathy, carelessness and neglect of mothers or custodians. Improper feeding, insufficient clothing and general domestic mismanagement had to answer for a great deal.

Miss Zanetti, speaking from her experience as an Inspector for the Chorlton Union, said that infants did not need protection as much from the positive cruelty of baby farmers as from the results of the ignorance and carelessness of the nurses. She agreed with the previous speaker in regard to the responsibility of improper feeding for infantile mortality. She had known infants fed with potatoes, tea, cheese, bacon, and even beer. It was her belief that mothers and nurses welcomed, rather than resented, inspection.

THE MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK has many honourable traditions to maintain, not the least of these being the generosity which has ever characterised its operations. Mr. Winston, the first president of the Company, set the ball rolling in this direction when he equipped an ambulance for service in the war of secession, and it is a somewhat remarkable coincidence that the last great war in which a European country has been engaged—the Boer War—gives the Company another opportunity for showing that generosity compatible with safety and fairness to the members still maintains its place as a leading feature in the programme of the office. It appears that the extra mortality experienced by reason of the War in South Africa has been much lighter than was expected, and consequently the Company has not been called upon to pay the number of claims anticipated. It would, of course, have been perfectly justifiable had the Mutual regarded the overplus as legitimate profit. A different course has been taken, however, all surviving policy-holders who paid extra premiums on account of war risk having been notified that they are entitled to a refund of one-fifth of same. A more satisfactory mode of dealing with an unlooked-for situation could scarcely have been conceived, and one that so fittingly illustrates the Company's desire to do the best possible for the vast army of its clients in the two hemispheres.—*Commercial World*.