

of the secretary not later than March 1 next. A committee appointed by the governing council will be the judges.

The inaugural meeting for 1903-4 gave promise of the current season being so successful as to be worthy of the Insurance Institute of Montreal.

### INSURANCE INSTITUTE OF TORONTO.

#### EXAMINATIONS' SYLLABUS.

The Insurance Institute, of Toronto, has issued a "Syllabus of Examinations," which it proposes to hold in the Institute rooms, Toronto, in the April of each year. Candidates, who must be members of the Toronto Institute, are required to sign and forward an entry form, not later than 15th ult.

The first Examination, in the Fire Branch, will include Arithmetic, Euclid, Algebra, Composition, Book-keeping, Geography. The second Examination: General Rules and Tariffs of the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association, Average and Co-insurance Clauses, Plan drawing to scale, Chemistry—Elementary, Reinsurance, Correspondence, Policy drafting and Endorsement—Office practice, Building construction, including Heating, Ventilating and Lighting, Electricity—Elementary.

In the Life Branch the first Examination will include the same as in the Fire Branch. The second Examination will comprise: Use of Logarithms, Interest and Discount Tables, Elementary Principles of Life Assurance Law. The third Examination will include: Analysis of Life Assurance Accounts, Selection of Risks, Investments and Reassurances.

The Institute explains that the above examinations have been arranged inasmuch as:—

"The Examinations of the Federation of Insurance Institutes of Great Britain and Ireland have not met with general favour among the members of our Institute. The Council have, therefore, undertaken to meet what they believe will be the desire of the members by conducting examinations on the various subjects laid down in the syllabus. These will be dealt with in accordance with the practices and usages in this country.

"These examinations have been made so convenient and gradual, that the Council believe they are not beyond the attainment of any one of ordinary education in the insurance business. The Council would urge all members to aim at success, and commence at once the course of study required to pass the examinations, as there is a growing demand for men who have an educational training and a special knowledge of subjects pertaining to insurance. Those who do not so prepare themselves, will find that they are out-distanced and outclassed, and avenues of advancement closed to them. The Council have not arranged to supply instruction for any of the subjects upon which students will be examined, nor has any arrangement been made for tuition by class. The preparation for these examinations is left to private arrangement. The Institute will set up a standard only, and those who undertake the work must be prepared to meet a comparatively rigid examination. It is believed the Institute's certificate will be of material value to its holder."

In regard to these examinations, we would submit that, due and the most kindly consideration be given to the circumstances of candidates. They will be young men who are engaged all day in office work, quite arduous enough, or monotonous enough to be a heavy drain on their mental and nervous energy. Health of mind and body require exercise and relaxation, as well as rest, mental and physical. Stimulating young men to study as hard as though they were undergraduates of a college would be doing them a serious wrong. The absence of any tutorial aid to their studies is a grave defect in this educational scheme. There are those, like Dawson, the eminent mathematician of the 18th century, who seem to have such a genius for mathematics as to need no teaching help; but these cases are rare. There are subjects in the Examination Syllabus, the study of which cannot even be entered upon without the assistance of a teacher, and, in the case of all of them, the student who has no tutor wastes time wholesale, and is most liable to become discouraged by difficulties that a timely hint, or a few moments' direct instruction would remove. Right methods of study, the best text-books to be used; other sources of information are learnt from a teacher in a tenth of the time that a student would have to devote to their acquisition if left alone. The Institute would do well to consider this question, and arrange for courses of instruction to be given by competent teachers.

We offer these suggestions out of an earnest desire to see the educational feature in this and other Insurance Institutes successfully developed, the accomplishment of which depends upon the younger members receiving every reasonable encouragement and necessary assistance in their studies.

### GUARDIAN ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The Guardian Assurance Company, Ltd., has appointed Messrs. Cawthra & Cawthra its city agents at Toronto. The firm is composed of Mr. Victor Cawthra, who has been long and favourably known in the Real Estate world, and Mr. W. H. Cawthra. Their extensive social and business connections cannot fail to be highly advantageous to the company they represent. Mr. H. D. P. Armstrong, who for 25 years has most successfully represented the Guardian in Toronto, will still continue to be the general agent of the company in that city. The Cawthra firm will occupy a part of the same office premises as Mr. Armstrong, who will give them the benefit of his wide experience in developing the large business it is confidently expected that they will control.

On January 1, 1904, the Toronto Officers of the Guardian will be removed to No. 16 and 18 Leader Lane, where the more spacious premises will be fitted up by the company, in a thoroughly up-to-date manner and with the equipment of a modern agency office. It is likely that other changes in connection with the Guardian's Ontario arrangements will shortly be announced.