

Life Assurance Companies Interested. A deep-rooted dislike to vaccination, although the rapid spread of vaccination and the rapid decline of small-pox has been acknowledged by the most obstinate opponents of inoculation, found expression in England to such an extent that an ill-considered Act of Parliament has made it possible for so-called "conscientious objectors" to triumph. It took fifty years for England to enjoin vaccination by law upon all children, and twenty more to enforce it by the requisite machinery. Yet this new Act has threatened to destroy all the good resultant from the discoveries of Jenner and others. A year ago we directed attention, by means of an article published in a British magazine, to the growing sense of the extreme danger into which Great Britain has been plunged by the extraordinary number of people who are taking advantage of an Act of Parliament to pose as "conscientious objectors" to vaccination. The life assurance companies were strongly advised to boycott the anti-vaccinationists. The insurance companies have it in their power to make the "conscientious objector" realize the error of his ways, and if any community is threatened with deprivation of the protection afforded by compulsory vaccination, the immunity of vaccinated people from such a foul disease as small-pox surely warrants the boycotting of anti-vaccinationists.

Influenza in London. The heavy mortality resultant from a serious outbreak of influenza in London is actually diverting some part of the attention hitherto devoted entirely to the lists of casualties received from South Africa. The daily record of deaths is so startling by its length that the Insurance "Post" is led to remark "another foe than war has attacked us; pestilence is abroad, and this scourge is undoubtedly the influenza." The Registrar General's recent returns show that the weekly death-rate of the great city has been rising steadily. In the middle of November the influenza death-rate in London was 14; in the week preceding Christmas it was 69, and for the first week of the new year it was 193, or almost three times the number of the previous week. It is stated that many of the deaths recorded as due to pneumonia are directly attributable to influenza. That the insurance journals are justified in regarding as a pestilence the type of influenza which has for several years seriously increased the death-rate in the principal English cities is shown by the figures given by the London County Council returns, which show the admitted records of influenza in London in the last decade.

Ten Years of Influenza.

Years.	Deaths in London.
1890..	652
1891..	2,336
1892..	2,264
1893..	1,526

1894..	750
1895..	2,156
1896..	496
1897..	658
1898..	1,295
1899..	1,825

Fears are expressed that the record for the present year will equal that of 1891.

A tabulated statement of the ages of those who died from influenza during the first week of the present month shows that the victims of this epidemic are chiefly among the elderly.

Ages.....	Under 5	5 to 20	20 to 40	40 to 60	60 to 80	over 80
Deaths.....	7	8	54	85	115	47

The total number of deaths recorded in London for the first week of 1900 was no less than 3,266, a rate of 37.1 per thousand per annum. This is the highest point touched since March, 1895, when, owing to the epidemic of influenza then prevailing, the number of deaths rose in one week to 3,471, and the rate to 41.2.

Canadian Bore.

Some time ago, London "Truth" called attention to a new nuisance, a product of the present war in South Africa. He is thus defined by Mr. Labouchere:—

"The club bore abounds! Since the war broke out, however, a new variety of club bore has cropped up, to wit, what might be called 'The Amateur General.' In every club there appears to be some obscure and unsuccessful soldier who is posing as a Heaven-born military genius, and insists on telling his fellow members what "Wolsley," "Buller," or "White" should do, or should have done. "The Amateur General" talks in his loudest tone, so that whoever is in the room, even in the most remote corner of it, shall have the privilege of learning what he thinks of each item of war news. The pronoun "I" occurs with emphasis in almost every sentence, and greatly adds to the irritation of his fellow members. We all have our troubles, and to these have been added the anxiety which, as patriotic Englishmen, we feel for the safety of our army and the triumph of our cause. Is that double burden to be added to by the acute annoyance caused by the conduct of these club 'Amateur Generals' who talk so dogmatically and truculently, and irritate us all so greatly?"

Canada cannot claim to be quite free from a somewhat similar bore. We have our "Home Generals" who know everything pertaining to the art of military evolutions, and they are sometimes found in trains and street-cars criticizing in a strident voice the disposition of General Buller's forces and finding fault with our own excellent Minister of Militia.

However, we can endure this foolish and unreasonable criticism of the campaign as conducted by the