the average cost to a member joining the order in 1900 was $40.42, and that the average for old members for the same year was $35.92, the average amount of insurance being $2,700. During 1900, says the report of the examiners, there were admitted into the society 14,086 members, at an average age of 32 and memberships terminated were 7,880, at an average age of 40.30, thus enabling the society to slightly reduce the average age of those remaining. "While this would indicate that the society is successful in maintaining its membership, at an average age of about 42, yet we find the average number of deaths to be constantly increasing, being in 1900 an average of 11.05 per 1,000, while in 1898 it was 9.83, with 193,043 members, as against 201,622 in 1900."

It is useless to blink the fact that young members decline to be obliged to pay for old ones. The cost of the Royal Arcanum's insurance, which was only $11.34 per $1,000 in 1885 has gone up to $15.29 per $1,000 in 1900. If at this increased rate it is found impossible to pay up arrears of death claims, with those claims, as the Department above tells us, increasing, there is no hope for the society.

GOLD MINING IN CANADA.

A letter on gold mining in Canada from the special mining commissioner of The London Economist appears in the October 19th issue of that journal. The writer divides our gold mines into four groups: The Nova Scotian, those of Ontario, the British Columbian, and those of the Yukon, and he is probably not far from the mark when he estimates their aggregate yield last year at 1,780,000 ounces, made up of 18,767 from Ontario, 30,399 from Nova Scotia, 231,089 from British Columbia, and 1,500,000 from the Yukon. This production he considers will be high-water mark for some time to come. He dismisses the Lake of the Woods mines in a few words, saying that the mines started "almost all ended in failure. . . The ore is low grade and irregular in value." Then he proceeds to score the Ontario mines floated in London, the Regina, the Mikado, and the Sultana, describing the latter as "the most impudent flotation we have had for a long time." Generally speaking, this correspondent's remarks, though giving evidence of considerable expert knowledge, appear unduly pessimistic, especially with regard to British Columbia and the Yukon. Scarcely anything in the Kootenay pleases him; the LeRoi mine was "shockingly handled;" the Athabasca, Granite, Duncan and Fern "have apparently gone wrong;" but he does see a glimmer of hope for the hydraulic and placer mines of the north. Of these, "only one is paying really well, but this mine—the Consolidated Caribou—is doing great things." He states, truly, that the yield last year "was $350,000, and this year there will likely be a bigger return." H wrote thus from Vancouver in September; but we regret to tell him that, owing to a short water supply, the Consolidated Cariboo, instead of earning $400,000, earned only $143,000 this year, whereas its expenses were $140,000. However, it is well for us to have anyone take a calm instead of a roseate view of our gold mining. He promises to treat many of the mines at first hand in future articles, after actual inspection, and that will be better than generalizing.

THE PROGRESS OF JAPAN."

SECOND ARTICLE.

Some of our readers may remember the words of a former Consul-General of Japan, a few years ago, Mr. Theodore Nosse. Speaking to a representative of this journal upon the modernizing influences which were bringing Japan to the front among the nations, he said: "We are beginning to use European food, having discovered its nutritive value." By European food was meant bread and butter and meat, instead of the fish and rice that had been for centuries the pabulum of the common people. The Japanese were then beginning to give bread and butter to their navy, intending shortly to extend the change to the army. Judging from the increased import of flour, namely from $497,000 worth in 1896, to $1,941,000 worth in 1900, the change has possibly been made. There is an enormously increased import of beans, pease, rice, sugar, alcohol, etc., in recent years, indicating a change in habits of living. The change comes more slowly among the common people in the interior, but the better classes, the students in colleges, etc., are now-a-days better fed.

A dozen years ago Japan imported only $70,000 worth of flour in twelve months; for the last four years her import of it has exceeded a million dollars' worth annually. In 1900 she bought flour to the value of 3,882,517 yen—a yen is about equal to half a dollar. Her import of other comestibles was last year 21,812,715 yen, besides sugar to the value of 26,691,000 yen. The largest item in Japan's list of imports is raw cotton, the value of her purchases of which in 1900 is given at 59,471,629 yen. That her cotton manufacturing industry has made progress is shown by her being able to export last year 5,723,000 yen worth of cotton tissues, and 20,589,000 yen worth of cotton yarn. Her export of raw silk in one year is put at 44,657,000 yen, and of silk fabrics at 26,794,000. Her tea export does not bulk as largely as one would expect, being only 9,035,000 yen, and her rice 3,576,000 for 1900. Her exports to Canada have more than quadrupled since 1887, for where in that year they were 714,175 yen they were last year 2,950,663.

Reserving to another time any lengthy reference to the borrowings and national debt of the Japanese Empire, its revenues and expenditure, its banks and clearing-houses, we may give in closing this article a brief list of the principal articles of import and export. The figures are for the year 1900.

Imports into Japan.

	Yen.
Tools and machines	13,800,000
Raw cotton	59,471,000
Cotton yarn	7,043,000
Cotton manufactures	14,231,000
Woollen manufactures	13,801,000
Chemicals and dyes	10,261,000
Metal manufactures	37,638,000
Sugar	26,691,000
Petroleum	14,162,000