

STATISTICS OF OLD AGE.

THE OLD WORLD'S CENTENARIANS.....MEDICAL REVIEW.

A German statistician has studied the census returns of Europe to learn a few things about the centenarians of the Old World. He has found, for instance, that high civilization does not favor the greatest length of life. The German empire, with 55,000,000 population, has but 78 subjects who are more than 100 years old. France, with fewer than 40,000,000, has 213 persons who have passed their 100th birthday. England has 146; Ireland, 578; Scotland, 46; Denmark, 2; Belgium, 5; Sweden, 10; and Norway, with 2,000,000 inhabitants, 23. Switzerland does not boast a single centenarian, but Spain, with about 18,000,000 population, has 410. The most amazing figures found by the German Statistician came from that troublesome and turbulent region known as the Balkan Peninsula. Servia has 575 persons who are more than 100 years old; Roumania, 1,084; and Bulgaria, 3,883. In other words, Bulgaria has a centenarian to every thousand inhabitants, and thus holds the international record for old inhabitants. In 1892 alone there died in Bulgaria 350 persons of more than 100. In the Balkan Peninsula, moreover, a person is not regarded on the verge of the grave the moment he becomes a centenarian. For instance, in Servia, there were in 1890 some 200 persons between 106 and 115 years, 123 between 115 and 125, and 18 between 125 and 135. Three were between 135 and 140. Who is the oldest person in the world? The German statistician does not credit the recent story about a Russian 160 years old. Russia has no census, he says, and except in cases of special official investigation the figures of ages in Russia must be mistrusted. The oldest man in the world is then, in his opinion, Bruno Cotrim, a negro born in Africa and now a resident in Rio Janeiro. Cotrim is 150 years old. Next to him probably comes a retired Moscow cabman, named Kustrim, who is in his 140th year. The statistician says the oldest woman in the world is 130 years old, but neglects to give her name or address, possibly out of courtesy, or perhaps in view of the extraordinary figures which came to his hand from the Balkans he thought a subject only 130 years old was hardly worthy of particular mention.

A WIDOW'S GRATITUDE.

LEVIS, 24th November, 1896.

MR. PETER HUNT,
*Inspector,*SUN LIFE ASSURANCE CO. OF CANADA,
LEVIS, QUE.

DEAR SIR,

I desire to express my great satisfaction concerning the settlement of my claim in virtue of Policy No. 47,510 on the life of Joseph Adelard Lemieux, my husband.

Knowing that your Company is already advantageously known to the public, and that it has an excellent reputation, I admit that my appreciation may seem of a secondary importance. In the meantime, you can believe that I will recommend your Company every time I have an opportunity to do so.

My best thanks for the manner with which you have settled the above Policy.

Yours truly,

MIME. L.

DEATH OF NIAGARA FALLS.

Fifteen hundred years ago the terrestrial movements raised the Johnson barrier to the Erie basin so high that the waters of that lake reached not merely the level of Lake Michigan, but the point of turning all the water of the upper lakes in the Mississippi drainage by way of Chicago. But the falls were then cutting through the ridge, and when this was accomplished, before the change of drainage was completed, the surface of Lake Erie was suddenly lowered by many feet, and thus the falls were re-established for some time longer. Slowly, year by year, one sees the cataract wearing back, and suggesting the time when the river will be turned into a series of rapids; but another silent cause is at work, and one not easily seen—namely, the effects of the changing of level of the earth's crust. From the computations already referred to it was found that for the first 24,000 years of the life of the river only the Erie waters flowed by way of the Niagara River, and for only 8,000 years have all the waters of the upper lakes been feeding the falls. If the terrestrial movements continue as at present, and there appears no reason to doubt it, for the continent was formerly vastly higher than now, then in about 5,000 years the rim of the Erie basin promises to be raised so high that all the waters of the upper lakes will flow out by way of the Chicago Canal. Thus the duration of Niagara Falls will have continued about 37,000 years. But the lakes will endure beyond the calculations of the boldest horologist.—*Appleton's Popular Science Monthly.*