COMPULSORY HEALTH INSURANCE.

In line with the views of Dr. Hoffman, the former chief medical investigator for the National Industrial Conference Board, Dr. George E. Tucker, has presented a series of arguments against the introduction of a compulsory health insurance system in the United States, and in summing up quotes Ambassador Gerard:

"The workingmen in the cities (of Germany) are hard workers and probably work longer and get less out of life than any workingmen in the world. The laws so much admired and made ostensibly for their protection, such as insurance against unemployment, sickness, injury, old age, etc., are in reality skillful measures which bind them to the soil as effectively as the serfs of the Middle Ages were bound to their masters' estates."

Dr. Tucker stated, also, that the application of compulsory health insurance in Great Britain has been a signal failure, as evidenced by reports which have emanated from responsible authorities in that country, and he concluded by saying: "In this war for humanity, neither we nor any of the allied countries would be justified in copying any German plan which is known to have been conceived in iniquity and enforced through militarism and aimed to destroy individualism and democracy. — Insurance Times.

INSURANCE IN 1918.

THE SUN LIFE.

The Sun Life reports indicate that 1918 was a record year for that company. New business written totalled $57,806,966, an increase of $2,642,498 over 1917, and nearly $10,000,000 more than the 1916 figures.

THE IMPERIAL LIFE.

The Imperial Life had a record month in December, when new business totalling approximately $2,000,000 was written. Its total new business for 1918 was $15,013,000, an increase of $2,000,000 over 1917, which was the previous high record. The company's reserves have increased $1,250,000 during the year, and now stand at $12,247,529. Assets total $15,448,000—an increase of $1,164,000 over 1917—of which $6,000,000 is invested in bonds and debentures.

THE CANADA LIFE.

The Canada Life reports a splendid year. New business totalled $22,891,668, an increase of $2,522,725 over 1917. Total income was $11,048,342, a gain of $1,477,350 compared with 1917. Business in force now totals $195,980,550, being in excess of the 1917 total to the extent of $12,963,790.

THE NORTH AMERICAN LIFE.

The North American Life received business during December totalling over $1,700,000, which is a record for any one month. Total application received in 1918 amounted to over $14,700,000, an increase of 16 per cent. compared with 1917.

THE EXCELSIOR LIFE.

The Excelsior Life increased its business last year over half a million dollars compared with 1917; the 1918 business totalled $6,750,000.

HALIFAX DISASTER DAMAGES.

Advice from Halifax states that writs have been issued in the Supreme Court requiring sixty-three insurance companies to show cause why they are not liable for damages aggregating $400,000 sustained in the destruction of the Richmond plant of the Acadia Sugar Refining Company as a direct result of the explosion of December 6, 1917. There are thousands of such claims pending in Halifax, but, so far, this is the first one to get into the courts, and it is currently believed that the preparation of Canada's account against Germany may have something to do with the action.

The liability of the insurance companies for losses by fire caused indirectly by the explosion has been under consideration for some time, and it has been agreed that no action should be brought against the companies pending an expert investigation as to the merits of their responsibility. It is understood in this connection that the investigators have decided upon a percentage which they feel the insurance companies should be called upon to pay in the settlement of all claims based on damage by fire alone, but the matter has yet to be finally disposed of. These claims are not to be confused with that brought to a head through the action of the Acadia Sugar Refining Company.—Insurance Times.

IMPERIAL GUARANTEE ANNUAL REPORT.

The annual report for 1918, which was presented to the shareholders of the Imperial Guarantee and Accident Insurance Company of Canada, shows that a good year's business was transacted by the company. 18,626 policies were issued, amounting to $37,174,370. The premiums on new and renewed business amounted to $362,785.65, with premiums paid for of $355,336.68, being an increase of $47,098.72.

In spite of the large increase of claims paid due to the influenza epidemic the assets of the company amount to $481,584.30, while the investments of the company are all first class securities bearing good interest returns. The Bonds and Debentures are carried at a valuation actually below the valuation authorized by the Dominion Insurance Department.

The lines of insurance now written by the company according to the report are: Personal Accident Insurance, Sickness Insurance, Elevator Insurance, Fidelity Guarantee, Plate Glass Insurance and Automobile Insurance.

EXCELSIOR LIFE.

At the company's annual meeting which was held in Toronto on the 23rd instant, it was announced that assets amounted to over $5,000,000, and that a record amount of new business was secured.

During the year, applications for new assurances were received for $6,784,002.00, the largest amount applied for in any year in the history of the company. There were issued and revived policies for a total of $6,488,056.00, bringing the total in force up to $26,842,967.30.

The premiums, new and renewal, after deducting payments made to other companies, for re-assurances, amounted to $909,306.75, being a substantial increase over 1917 of $113,238.58, or 14 per cent.

The total receipts for premiums, interest, rents, etc., amounted to $1,207,316.18, an increase of $122,233.48.

The amount paid to policyholders for Death Claims, Matured Investment and Matured Endowment Policies, in addition to the amount set aside for their benefit during the year, totalled $869,576.89, or in other words, out of every dollar of premiums received from policyholders during the year, over 95 cents was returned to or set aside for their benefit.

The total assets available for security of policyholders have now passed the Five Million Dollar Mark, totalling $5,210,841.21, an increase for the year of $275,379.18.