

reserve," or "reserve for amount of unearned premiums," means does not call for any gigantic intellectual power. It is analogous to a bank deducting from its gross earnings the interest or discount on bills not matured at date of making up the accounts. Discount is paid in advance in the same way as fire premiums, and until the obligations involved in both classes of business are mature and fulfilled, the whole charge made upon them when the transaction was initiated cannot justly be counted upon as having been earned.

The matter is well within the comprehension of any intelligent school boy, but as Ariel says "some do not want to understand it," and as there is no known way to force information into a man's mind against his will, such persons may be left behind the shutters they have put up to keep out the light.

Appendicitis.

There is a general impression that the disorder known as "Appendicitis" is assuming the features of an epidemic, so numerous are the cases. It is also thought to be a new disease. For either of these impressions there is a lack of evidence. The precise cause, nature and location of this disorder were not known up to a recent period, it was consequently classified under a general heading and treated on general rather than specific principles. At a meeting on January 13 of the Manchester Insurance Institute a paper on "Appendicitis" was read by Mr. Thorburn, F.R.C.S.E.

Dr. Thorburn having given a brief account of the structure and connections of the vermiform appendix described the main features of the disease resulting from its inflammation, and known generally as "appendicitis." He pointed out that there is no sufficient evidence that this disease is of increasing frequency or mortality, that it need not be regarded as a new risk in life assurance, and that in the case of those who have not had an attack, there is no means of foreseeing or guarding against the disease. In the case of those who have had an attack, he suggested the following rules for guidance in accepting a proposal for life assurance:—

(1) If the appendix has been removed accept at ordinary rates.

(2) After a single attack with abscess formation, two years should elapse before acceptance.

(3) After a single attack without suppuration, probably five years should elapse.

(4) After two or more attacks the life will be unassurable, unless after a long period of quiescence.

A physician in this city holds that this complaint arises from neglect of well-known rules for maintaining health, and in the case of children the risk is increased by over-indulgence in candies and improper diet.

Suicide Encouraged.

Whether intentional or not there have been decisions given recently by Courts in the United States which are decidedly encouraging to those whose criminally morbid natures incline them to commit suicide in order for their heirs to secure money for life policies by such fraudulent action. It has been contended that the act of suicide is proof of dementia, of such a disorder of the reasoning faculties as to render the sufferer irresponsible. The plea reminds us of a phrase used by Judge Bramwell. A prisoner pleaded irresistible impulse as an excuse for his crime. Baron Bramwell said: "Precisely so! this Court is established in order to deal with those who are so afflicted, I therefore sentence you to three years hard labour in the penitentiary, which treatment will, I trust, effect a cure." If suicide inevitably voided a life policy there would be a decrease in this crime. A case is reported by a contemporary, which shows how American Courts seem to regard insurance companies as outlaws, as having no claim to equity or justice.

The suit of V. M. Warrick, of Kansas City, against the Fidelity & Casualty Company for \$5,000, contested by the company on the ground that the insured committed suicide, has been decided in favour of the beneficiary under the policy. The company claimed that its policy contained a clause exempting it from liability for a sum in excess of \$500 in the event the insured committed suicide. The court held that the policy is good for its maximum amount, although death may result from self destruction.

THE MOLSON'S BANK.

A general meeting of the shareholders of the Molsons Bank was held on 23rd inst., which was attended by a number of prominent citizens. The business considered is shown by the following by-law and resolution which were unanimously passed:—

"Whereas, it is expedient that the capital stock of the Molsons Bank should be increased: be it, therefore, enacted by the shareholders thereof, assembled at a special general meeting held at the head office of the bank in Montreal, on the 23rd day of February, 1903;

"1. That the capital stock of the Molsons Bank be, and the same is hereby increased by the sum of \$2,500,000, divided into 50,000 shares of \$50 each;

"2. That the said increased stock shall, when the directors so determine, and by the issue of \$500,000 at a time, be allotted to the then shareholders of the bank, pro-rata, at such rate as is fixed by the directors, but no fraction of a share shall be allotted, and the allotment of each of the said shares shall be subject in all respects to the provisions of the Bank Act;