

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

TAKING MONEY FROM THE BABY'S BANK.

Many loans—not all—obtained on the security of a life insurance policy may be likened to taking money from the baby's bank and not replacing it, for not more than eight per cent. of all the money borrowed in this manner is ever repaid except through the policy lapsing or maturing. . . . There is material for surprise when one considers the extent to which the practice has gone, as shown at the meeting of the Association of Life Insurance Presidents in New York. These loans are reported to have increased from one-third of one per cent. of the reserve funds of American companies in 1888 to sixteen per cent. in 1912 and to nearly eighteen per cent. this year. At the close of last year out of the three billion five hundred million dollars of reserve funds of all companies it is stated that five hundred and fifty million dollars had been loaned to policyholders. . . . If the companies did not permit such loans—and it is unlikely they could all be brought to consider such a plan—there would be other and more expensive ways to the borrower to accomplish the same thing. . . . The problem, it is evident, is not easy of solution.—"Newark (N.J.) News."

FOR THE LAST AND MOST EXTREME NECESSITY ONLY.

. . . . A life insurance policy ought to be one of the most sacred things in a man's life. It is the stipend that he is laying aside for the protection of his family in case he should be suddenly taken away. To mortgage that providential fund ought to be not the easiest and the readiest thing to do, but the last and the most extreme. It is almost like taking pennies out of the babies' savings bank.

"Cedar Rapids (Ia.) Republican."

MORTGAGING DEFENSELESS HEIRS.

Instead of paying, as we go, it is so much easier, if so much less wise, to borrow from posterity. Extravagance often goes hand in hand with improvidence; and this is an extravagant age in an extravagant country. That it is a rich country is perhaps some temptation, but no excuse. Various evidences, collective and individual, attest this inclination to mortgage the future. What the indignant reflections of our posterity, who must shoulder the penalty in either or both added tax or depleted inheritance, does not disturb our blithe and free-handed unconcern. . . . An impressive sign of the times is the indictment drawn by the insurance fraternity—both companies and commissioners—against the startling increase in the tendency for the insured to borrow from their own heirs by dipping into the principal of the protection fund for their families. . . . It is the unbroken increase in this borrowing propensity that is the disconcerting element. . . . In part we may blame the cost of high living for personal and municipal necessities; but also in part there is indisputably reflected the cost of high living, individual or collective. Not the necessities, but the luxuries, mainly account for our temptation and our propensity to mortgage our defenseless heirs.—"Boston (Mass.) News Bureau."

GROWING EXTRAVAGANCE AND THRIFTLESSNESS.

Few people, we take it, are in temper to consider counsel to be thrifty at a time like this, when the spirit of the Christmas festival opens hearts and purses. Yet the