



SIXTH STREET, TYPICAL OF RESIDENTIAL BRANDON.

Facts About Annuities.

There are many reasons for the increased activity that has been shown in annuity business during the last few years. People with money to invest, or money invested, have had some rude shocks in that time, and have discovered that, from one cause or another, it has become a much easier thing to talk about a sound and profitable investment than to find it; and that the most careful consideration on the part of the private individual cannot safeguard him against depreciation of investment values, or reduction in the return upon capital invested. These matters, difficult for even great corporations to deal with, are utterly beyond his power to reckon with, as they are caused by circumstances over which he has no control. It is thus natural that many persons should be glad to hand over the whole responsibility to an insurance company, and, by purchasing an annuity, relieve themselves of all further anxiety, and make sure of a certain and definite income for the remainder of their lives, and thus the increasing uncertainty of the individual is causing a larger amount than usual to be invested annually in this way.

It is argued sometimes that, just because the capital disappears at the death of the annuitant, the buying of an annuity is rather a selfish thing.

That all depends upon circumstances, but even taking the extreme case of a man who has no one whatever dependent on him, and who uses his money to buy an annuity, it does not follow that there is any selfishness in the matter at all. He is certain of a definite, substantial income as long as he lives; an income whose exact amount he knows, which is subject to no depreciation or alteration, and of which he can spend as much as he likes on himself, save as much as he likes, or give away as much as he likes, with the absolute knowledge that his income will be precisely the same during the following year, and with this certainty he may give away much more than he otherwise would have done. On the other hand, had he not bought an annuity, he might easily have found his income steadily diminishing, while through some unfortunate investment he might have lost all, or nearly the whole, of his capital. It is not to be forgotten that the freedom from anxiety which this certain income gives, is greatly conducive to longevity, so that in many cases it must work out that the man has security and entire freedom from worry, and that in addition to the 4 per cent. which he *might* have obtained through an ordinary investment, he gets his capital fully returned to him during his own lifetime in annual instalments.—*Insurance Index.*