

LIFE INSURANCE EXAMINATIONS.

I.—MEDICAL EXAMINERS.

The blessings accruing to society and individuals from Life Insurance are manifold, and much is due to the medical profession in removing it from the realm of mere conjecture and placing it upon the solid foundation upon which it now rests.

The success of every Life Insurance institution depends directly upon the duration of life amongst its insurants, proving to be at least equal to that assumed in the calculations of the actuary. Nothing is more uncertain than the duration of any individual life, but there are few things less subject to fluctuation than the average duration of human life, when the observations are extended over a large number of individuals. Without medical selection, the death rate among insured persons would doubtless be greater than in that of the whole population, as a large number of diseased persons would enter; but by a selection excluding not only those who are actually diseased, but all those who are constitutionally or otherwise pre-disposed to disease, the death rate is decreased. It is obvious that without trustworthy medical selection, the most careful calculations upon conservative assumptions must prove disappointing in practice; hence the examination of applicants for Life Insurance is one of the most important duties undertaken by a physician.

High professional attainments are not sufficient in themselves to qualify a physician to act as an examiner; he must possess sound judgment, the power of keen observation and the faculty of weighing