

members, while the rate of losses among the Irish was four or five times that of the average of the various other nationalities. Mr. Fletcher therefore suggests that the question of nationality be considered in the adjustment of rates. Possibly if he had carried his researches further, he might have found that the death rate among those with brown hair or turned up noses was greater than among the blondes or roman noses.

IN TALKING ABOUT the New York Life investigation the other day, Mr. Erastus Wiman, according to the *Weekly Underwriter*, is reported as saying: "It is by large commissions only that first class insurance ability is secured. The rank and file of insurance agents are not better paid than men in other vocations, while the large salaries of officers, which have been criticized, are not greater than are paid to men of equal ability in control of interests of equal magnitude. There may be exceptions, but the rewards in life insurance are not greater than those which have been won by the most successful men in dry goods, mercantile and transportation circles, controlling an equal volume of capital and magnitude of business." Whatever his political peculiarities, Mr. Wiman as a business man stands in the front rank, and his opinion deservedly carries weight when expressed.

IT IS DIFFICULT to realize the enormous fire waste going on annually from the enormous figures given in the recently issued *Chronicle Fire Tables*. When the total for sixteen years in the United States requires ten figures for its expression, we stop short of taking in the vast amount—at least until after we have taken breath and a second look. The amount of property loss stands at \$1,474,558,339, and the number of fires at nearly a quarter of a million. During this time the aggregate loss to the insurance companies was \$833,929,348, or 56½ per cent. of the total property loss. The greatest total was in 1889, when the aggregate property loss was \$123,046,833, and the insurance loss \$73,679,465, the latter being almost 60 per cent. of the former. November, December and January, in the order named were the most destructive months, considered for the entire sixteen years, and June, September and February the least destructive. In 1890, however, July was the most destructive month, August beating November, and January exceeding March by only a trifle.

IT IS ONE of the signs of the times, showing the advanced position claimed for life assurance by its friends, that at the recent meeting of the National Association of Life Underwriters at Detroit, a proposition was made, strongly favored by President Harper, to establish a Life Insurance professorship in the new University of Chicago, and that it was enthusiastically received and heartily endorsed by a strong vote of the Association. Not content with this, the executive committee was instructed to appoint a special committee to correspond with the leading educational institutions, to induce them to make life assurance a com-

mon branch of study. We do not suppose that the action taken will lead to any practical results whatever, for the general student will not take the time to pursue this kind of special study; but that such a proposition should be made from such a source, and endorsed with such unanimity, indicates the prominent and honorable position reached by modern life assurance. Imagine such a proposition endorsed by any leading educational institution even twenty-five years ago.

AN ASSESSMENT ENDOWMENT concern, called the "Fraternity of Financial Co-operation," has been taken in hand at Wheeling, West Virginia, by the United States postal authorities, and such of the officers and agents as could be found arrested for fraudulent use of the mails. The "Fraternity" commenced operations last fall at Philadelphia, worked up a large business at Cleveland, and then transferred its center of operations to Wheeling. It has some 20,000 victims scattered over the country, and it is said that during the past three or four months has scooped in over a million dollars from its dupes, much of it through the mails. This concern was of the six months variety, promising \$150 at the end of that period. It recently sent an agent to Cleveland, who, under the plea that the concern was about to wind up its affairs, offered to buy up the certificates there for a few dollars each—about half the amount paid in, instead of the promised \$150. We presume this concern was neither better nor worse than the average brood of the class, and this action of the government looks as though a movement had begun for the general suppression of these swindles. If so, they are doomed, as they ought to have been by the various State authorities months ago.

IT WILL PERHAPS be remembered that a year ago we made some extracts in these columns from a paper read before the annual meeting, in May, 1890, of the American Medical Association, by Dr. Wm. B. Davis of Cincinnati, the medical director of the Union Central Life insurance company on the subject of "Functional Albuminuria in Persons apparently healthy." At the annual meeting in May, this year, of the Association of Life Insurance Medical Directors in New York, Dr. Davis also presented an exceedingly valuable paper, covering the general ground above indicated, in which he has laid the medical fraternity and the life assurance companies under lasting obligations. Cases from actual practice and opinions from scores of distinguished medical men on both continents are presented, showing clearly that albuminuria may exist for years in persons apparently healthy; and that when not associated with other grave symptoms, its presence does not necessarily justify the rejection of an applicant for life assurance. The consensus of medical opinion seems to be, as presented by Dr. Davis, that many applicants of the class named may be safely taken by the companies, for comparatively short terms or at an increased rate of premium, though caution is judiciously recommended. We hope at a future time to give our readers extracts from this valuable paper.