

the past ten years. This table shows an almost invariable and constant rise in the death rate of the several orders enumerated. In 1888 their average death rate was 7.22; in 1893 it was 9.34; in 1898 it was 10.84. This is an increase of 50 per cent in death rate in ten years. This increase in mortality has come notwithstanding these orders as a group have increased their membership more than one million in that time.

LAPSES.

There were 184,696 certificates lapsed during 1898, representing \$314,814,707 of protection, as compared with 186,682, representing \$315,793,574, the previous year. In other words, out of every 1,000 certificates in force last year 94 lapsed, as compared with 100 in 1897. This is one of the most gratifying conditions revealed by the reports, and shows decided improvement over previous years. We still have too high a lapse rate. About eleven times as many certificates are terminated in this manner by death. The orders composed exclusively of ladies have the smallest lapse rate. In one of these, where there are more than 40,000 members, and where nearly 9,000 new members were admitted last year, the lapse rate was only nine to the 1,000, as compared with the general average of 94. It is evident that the ladies are more appreciative of the benefits of these orders and more constant in their attachments than are the men. The degree of persistency exhibited in this case is not only worthy of special mention here, but it is to be hoped that other orders will go and do likewise.

Our Wisdom Approved by a Distinguished Fraternalist.

With a high mortality such as was raging all over the country recently, the death losses in the fraternal orders were alarming. Some have died, hardly having time to pay one assessment, and depleted the treasury of thousands of dollars for a few cents. Naturally such a strain on the treasury could not hold out very long without being felt, and a crisis must come sooner or later. To avert such disasters, all orders have adopted measures by which the business is put on a solid foundation, and the only way they did it was to levy assessments that would be in conformity with value received. Yes, "you can't get something for nothing." The Woodmen of the World have wisely come to that conclusion and have raised their assessment rates. We can only congratulate them upon their action, regretting only that such measures were not adopted years ago, when the Order was in its infancy.

The Woodmen Circle should by all means follow the example of the parent organization and adopt new rates and change the modus of creating our reserve fund. By adopting increased rates at this time, when the Woodmen Circle is in its formation, it will be put at once and for all time to come, on a solid foundation and payable basis, without being compelled to levy double assessments.

The I.O.F. of Canada, one of the strongest organizations in North America, with a membership of a hundred thousand and with a reserve fund of over three million dollars and a mortality of 5.46 to a 1,000, have also adopted a new schedule of rates, increasing same about 25 per cent. While

such an increase may be somewhat excessive, yet the principle is right. The time will come when the state authorities will prohibit fraternal organizations to do business on such rates as the Woodmen of the World and the Woodmen Circle are having in force. Such a movement is on foot, and it should be encouraged. Before the Woodmen Circle is compelled to adopt new rates by the state authorities, we should adopt them voluntarily. —Dr. E. HOLOVITCHNER, S.P.W.C., in August Tidings.

Our Actuarial Valuation.

Opinions of the English Press.

(Insurance Opinion, June, 1899.)

This Order, or fraternal insurance and benefit society, which has its origin and headquarters at Toronto, in Canada, has been established for some time in England, and we are now favored, by the courtesy of the London manager, with a copy of the valuation for the five years ended 31st December, 1897. This valuation has been conducted by Mr. C. H. E. Rea, well known as the actuary of the Pearl Life Assurance Company, and, coming from so good an authority, is both acceptable and opportune. The Independent Order of Foresters has a constitution hitherto not quite understood in this country. It is a large institution, and, of its class, in either Canada or the United States, there are none more influential. In fact, it has more funds than all the rest of the fraternal benefit societies in the United States put together. Its premiums provide for assurances for one year, and are renewable until the members attain the age of 70, when the premiums cease. The renewals are in the discretion of the Executive, and the contributions may be raised, if necessary, in any year prior to the assured reaching 70. It is gratifying to find that the valuation works out so well, and demonstrates the entire solvency of the Order, with a surplus of £27,465, disposing of all doubts, if such exist, as to the security available for the policy-holders or of the soundness of the principles upon which the society is conducted. The Order works upon the lodge system, but inasmuch as it is a society which is not required by law to maintain the reserve which is necessary for old line companies, a certainty that all claims arising out of the contracts will be properly met, is secured by a reserved power to call for an extra premium, on the assessment method. Such contingencies were not contemplated when the Life Assurance Act of 1870 was passed, and, therefore, provision was only made for the valuation of level premium companies. Mr. Rea has therefore made in his investigation two separate valuation balance-sheets, one in strict compliance with the Schedules of the Act, bringing out a result that has no connection with the principles on which the Independent Order of Foresters conducts its business, and the other, a supplemental one, showing the liabilities under its particular and somewhat special form of contracts. Without entering into technicalities the valuation is entirely satisfactory, and its value is enhanced by the lengthy and conscientious report from the actuary, which accompanies it. Herein Mr. Rea is able not only to commend the advantageous features of the Society, but also to make special mention of the extreme care and economy with which it is conducted. He further says that the annual "lay by" is particularly good, and