Notes and Items.

At Home and Abroad.

B.I., or I.B., is to be the new degree, meaning "Bachelor of Insurance." The hood, we presume, will be flame colour, which would be a good symbolic tint for both life and fire.

OTTAWA CLEARING HOUSE.—Total for week ending 12th June 1902: clearings $1,890,264; balances $443,347.

THE WESTERN ASSURANCE CO., OF TORONTO has reinsured the Rhode Island business of the Svea Insurance Company.

THE HOCHELAGA BANK reports profits of past year, $199,525, and $116,750 received for premiums on new stock. The reserve fund has been raised to $950,000 by taking $200,000 from above sources. The bank has deposits to amount of $7,250,879 and discounts, $7,411,585, its business generally having enlarged and been satisfactory in past year.

TRIFLING ACCIDENTS, as they are called, at times have serious consequences. A Scotch gentleman out rabbit-shooting, had a pellet lodged in his temple by an accidental shot. The wound was trifling, but erysipelas ensued which proved fatal. Fortunately for his family he had an accident policy for $5,000.

AMERICAN EXPORTS for 12 months ending 31st ult. were less than in previous year, being $1,395,197,238 against $1,493,642,685 in 1900-1901, a falling off to extent of $98,445,447. Imports were $898,356,787 compared with $815,768,875 in 1900-1901 an increase of $82,587,912. The decrease in exports was in corn, other grains, cotton, steel rails and sundry iron and steel goods.

U. S. IMPORTS IN APRIL LAST were $76,828,478 as against $76,898,131 in April 1901, and exports were $106,642,881 compared with $118,086,396 last year. The reduction in exports was in corn, $4,200,000, oats $1,400,000, wheat $2,100,000, flour $2,300,000, cotton $5,000,000, cattle $1,700,000.

THE ÆTNA FIRE has struck a remarkable loss record in Chicago. After just about coming out even on its business up to the first of May, so far that month it has not had a loss ratio of over five per cent. on a premium income of over $25,000. "It is well not to shout until you are out of the wood," is an old saying.

MESSRS. FETHERSTONHAUGH & CO., patent solicitors, Canada Life building, furnish us with the following list of patents granted to Canadians in the following countries. Any further information may be readily obtained from them direct. *Canadian Patents.*—J. Knope, knock-down book shelves; J. K. H. McCollum, turbine engines; A. Broodsky, process of indurating plaster of Paris, C. F. Ross & J. Bigney, nut locks; J. Innes, methods of marbling the edges of books; J. Oldham, opening and closing devices for gates; F. A. McRae, & C. E. Robertson, air compressors. *American Patents.*—R. J. Copeland, cabinet-desk; D. J. Matheson, door-securer; T. O'Brien, charcoal-heater; J. A. Tancock & T. C. Cochrill; automatic switch; Walter Thompson, solderless side-seams for tin can; Walter Thompson, end-seams for tin cans.

THE INTER-CITY UMBRELLA RENTING CO. has a new idea and seemingly a marketable one. The "N. Y. Chronicle" thus describes its business: It sells a check for a dollar, which entitles the holder to an umbrella at any of the stands in any section of any city where the company is established. When the use for the umbrella is past, the user takes it to the nearest stand and gets another check. This is the basic principle of the idea and there are various other phases of the business which look prospectively remunerative. The company is well organized, has a working capital and is doing business successfully in New York, Boston and Chicago and other places. Insurance men throughout the country are receiving literature from the New York office setting forth propositions to enlarge the company's scope.

THE "AMERICAN GRAIN ELEVATOR" remarks on the burning of the C.P.R. elevator at Port Arthur which was regarded as fire proof: "There seems to be enough wood in the cleaning machines and the housings of elevator legs, if burnt, to melt down the structural parts of a steel house. Plainly, then, the use of even this much wood must be abandoned or the structural steel must be protected, as are the structural parts of a fireproof office building, by a covering of protective material like earthenware tiles, etc., so that in the event of fire in the working house the steel will not come in contact with the flames or the heat."

THE VALUE OF FIRE PROTECTION in keeping down the proportion of loss to property and insurance carried thereon is clearly shown by the following figures covering Massachusetts fires of last year which are given in "The Insurance Press:"

STATISTICS OF FIRES WITH FIRE PROTECTION.

Valuation	$76,442,908
Insurance	64,841,340
Loss	4,990,932
Insurance loss	4,258,092

STATISTICS OF FIRES WITHOUT FIRE PROTECTION.

Valuation	$919,744
Insurance	664,803
Loss	529,161
Insurance loss	351,018

THE LAW'S DELAY and waste of time are old-time complaints. The "American Lawyer" says: "After examining records in all the States, going over a total of more than 18,000 cases, the conclusion is reached that substantially one-half of the time, expense, and labour incurred by our highest courts in determining the legal questions they could not evade was spent in correcting the mistakes of lawyers, in teaching lawyers how to practise law. Of the 29,942 points decided in the cases under review, 14,447, or nearly 49 per cent., referred to procedure "or other matters not involving the merits of the disputes."