

We notice that our Boston contemporary, the *Standard*, has added to its columns a new department under the head of "Fire Protection," to be devoted to "the interests of all mechanical appliances, used directly or indirectly in the protection of property against loss by fire."

The Sun Life has made a vigorous beginning toward the erection of its new building in this city on Notre Dame street. The architectural appearance, as shown in the design, will be very fine, while solidity combined with attractiveness will be characteristic of all parts of the interior.

It is our deliberate opinion that the fifty odd representatives of the various life companies doing business in Massachusetts, who signed a manifesto criticising the New York Life's "ordinary life distribution policy," and published it recently in all the Boston papers, will regret the course taken and see its injudiciousness.

It is reported that an opinion on the anti-rebate law of Massachusetts has been given by Gen. Benj. F. Butler in the following terms: "In my opinion the law is unconstitutional; but if it is constitutional, then I say that every policy written by giving a rebate is issued in violation of law, and such policy is void and of no effect."

The new business of the Mutual Life in Canada during 1889 was very satisfactory, having been \$3,240,000, an increase over the previous year. The premium income, which increased \$116,000, now amounts to \$416,000 and indicates a large degree of prosperity. We congratulate Manager Fayette Brown of this city on such gratifying results.

Fire premium receipts on New York City business were \$6,570,488 during 1889, as against \$6,757,284 during 1888. During the first six months of 1888 they amounted to \$3,851,756, while for the first six months of 1889 they were \$3,693,960. For the last six months of 1888 the premiums were \$2,905,528, while during the last six months of 1889 they were \$2,876,528.

Mr. J. K. Macdonald, the managing director of the Confederation Life, showed his genial face in our sanctum this week. He was looking remarkably well, showing that a man may work hard enough to make a good company still better and stronger in dull times, as he has done, and still keep on the winning side of care. We suppose a good conscience has something to do with it.

The Manchester Fire, of England, has made its annual report for 1889, showing total assets amounting to \$1,109,320. The reserve fund stands at \$441,900, to which additions were made from the year's profit, after paying a ten per cent. dividend. The company's paid-up capital is \$500,000. With its firm financial condition, and under its new manager, Mr. Moffatt, very satisfactory results are looked for in the future.

It seems to be pretty well established that annuitants as a class live longer than life policyholders. The report of the Friends' Provident Institution shows that of 62 policyholders who died, the average age was 64 years and 8 months, while the 14 annuitants who died lived to an average of 79 years and 2 months. This experience strengthens the theory that purchasers of annuities and endowments have good grounds for their belief in their own exceptional vitality.

An assessment concern, called the Banker's Mutual Relief Association, started last summer at San Francisco, has collapsed, and about five thousand investors in "cheap insurance" now wish they hadn't. It proposed to give from \$5 to \$20 per week in case of sickness, including women during childbirth, and a burial fund in case of death, all for \$10 a year! And yet the manipulators found five thousand people outside the insane asylums to go into the scheme.

We learn that the forthcoming annual report of the London and Lancashire Life will show an increase in amount assured, in premiums, in surplus funds, and in all important points, while a decrease in the expense ratio of nearly two per cent. is shown. In Canada the new business actually paid for was \$1,298,250, and the new premiums amounted to \$41,845, the total premium income being \$203,520, an increase of over \$18,000 from 1888. A very satisfactory showing for Manager Brown.

The press dispatches tell of a fire in a dwelling house at Appleton, Wis., caused by a stereoscope left one day on a table. On the return of the family from a brief absence, the house was found filled with smoke when it appeared that the sun's rays concentrated upon the glass of the stereoscope had set fire to the heavy table cover, of some combustible fabric, and would soon have developed a first class fire. Similar cases may have occurred and been charged to "incendiarism."

We have received from Mr. Thos. Ryall, the efficient agent at Paris, Ont., of the Western Assurance Co. of Toronto, a circular issued by him rehearsing the facts concerning the "Braeside" fire, in connection with which the *Brant Review* abused the company and the arbitrators, and on which we commented in our last issue. Mr. Ryall's facts fully vindicate the company, but that was perhaps scarcely needful, for its past honorable record and established reputation constitute its best vindication.

A fine specimen of the engraver's art comes to us from the New York Life Ins. Co., in the form of fine lithograph representations on mounted canvas of the various buildings erected by the company. The centre is occupied by the home office building and the emblematic eagle, while around it are grouped the buildings at Montreal, St. Paul, Omaha, Kansas City, Minneapolis, Paris, Vienna and Berlin, making altogether a fine group, and telling the story of the company's strength and far-reaching operations.

A bill has been introduced in the Ontario Parliament to amend the existing law regarding the securing of life assurance benefits to families, so that where a policy is secured before marriage, a declaration under the 5th section of "The Act to secure to Wives and Children the benefit of Life Insurance" shall be as valid as if the policy had been issued after marriage. The provisions of the amendment also include the mother of the assured, as well as wife and children, for such amount as he may apportion to her.

The Dominion Life Assurance Co. comes before the public with its first annual statement, though covering only the business of five and a half months, and it looks very well for a beginning. During the above period the company has issued 158 policies assuring \$231,500, and reports an income of \$8,600. The total assets amount to \$91,362, the uncalled capital being \$187,725, pledged to the security of policyholders. The Dominion Life is well officered, and bids fair to achieve satisfactory results under its present management.