Shipbuilders and Insurance.—The shipbuilders of the Clyde and North of England are organizing a fire office to cover their special class of risks. In allusion to this scheme "The Insurance Observer" says:—"As an interesting commentary on the foregoing comes the news that on Thursday evening damage to the extent of some £15,000 was caused by a fire at the Leven Shipyard, Dumbarton, belonging to Messrs. William Denny Brothers. It is stated that the fire broke out in a part of the yard close to the shed in which is being built Shamrock III., the New America Cup challenger. As great danger existed of this shed being implicated in the conflagration, special precautions were taken, and, fortunately, these proved successful. Exactly so; for had the fire spread the loss might easily have run into £50,000 or £100,000. Even as it was, the loss appears to have been sufficiently serious to have crippled any youthful fire office that might have been carrying shipbuilders' risks wholesale."

A Good Example to Follow.—The "Searchlight" gives a list of life offices that commenced as fraternals. "The Clergy Mutual, the Friends' Provident, the National Provident, the Temperance (now United Kingdom Temperance) Provident, and the Provident Clerks' life offices were all in their early days Friendly Societies pure and simple, having been originally registered under the Friendly Societies Act, 1829, which remained in force for a long time without much amendment. The Joint Stock Companies Act, 1844, brought all friendly societies issuing policies above £200 within its range, and a Friendly Socities Discharge Act had to be passed in order to facilitate this arrangement. The last instance of a friendly society joining the ranks of life assurance companies was in 1882, when the Victoria Provident Society, which had, from its foundation in 1860, accumulated sufficient funds to enable it to make the £20,000 deposit, became incorporated under the Companies Act, 1862, as a company limited by guarantee, the members' responsibility being fixed at 1s. for every £100 assured." "Go thou and do likewise" is the advice to some fraternals suggested by above changes.

Insurance Business as a Calling.—I presume that not more than one out of twenty-five men who enter the business of life insurance makes a really conspicuous success of the work. This seems a small per cent. of success, and yet I presume that it is as great as in almost any other calling, because perhaps not more than one man out of twenty-five who enters any of the ordinary lines of commerce makes a really conspicuous success of his efforts. I think it is absolutely safe to say that of half a dozen young men fresh from college entering upon chosen avocations for life, assuming that each has equal ability, integrity, determination and industry—assuming that one enters the law, another becomes a physician, another a surgeon, one a manufacturer, another enters upon a mercantile career, and one adopts life insurance as his life calling—I believe it will prove to be true, nine times out of ten, that if you will at the end of five years consider the relative success which have been achieved by each and all of these gentlemen, you will find that the man who entered the life insurance field has rapidly outdistanced all of the others in the results accomplished, and that his future is riper with promise than is the future of any one of the others.— I. M. Hamilton.

A Fire, a Cat and a Billiard Hall.—"M. Reichart, residing in Paris, while playing billiards in his house, hit a ball so hard that it bounded through an open window, falling through the glass roof of a room in the next house, and smashing a Sèvres vase. The crash so alarmed a cat sleeping on the table close by that the animal sprang up and knocked over a lamp, which set fire to some tapestry, and necessitated the calling out of the brigade, causing damage by water. M. Reichart was engaged to the niece of the invalid lady occupying the house in which the damage was caused. The commotion had so disastrous effect on the old lady's nerves that she died shortly afterwards. On learning the indirect cause of her aunt's death, the young lady refused to marry M. Reichart." The "Review," London, Eng., gives the above, but omits stating what is the moral. Is it that, billiards should not be played in a house, or, that a cat should not be kept, or, windows not left open, or Sèvres vases or lamps, or tapestry not owned, or that a young lady should not have an aunt and a lover at one and the same time.

CALENDARS, DIARIES, POCKET BOOKS, ETC.

One of the pleasant duties of the opening week of the New Year is the examination and acknowledgment of the Calendars, Pocket Books and Diaries sent out by insurance, loan and other companies, for the purpose of reminding their friends in *esse* and in *posse*, those already secured and those hoped for, of their several claims for support during the year just entered upon. To the senders of the following have our best thanks and good wishes for a prosperous new year.

The Standard Life Assurance Company has issued a very tasty Almanac Diary for the pocket, or desk. The fault, however, of this publication is that it is so dainty as to be a temptation to lady visitors to offices. It will find its way to boudoir tables and library desks, where, probably, it will excite an interest in life assurance that may prove of advantage to the Standard Life. Besides this bijou Almanac the Standard sends a business man's desk Diary which is bound, and another, a weekly sheet Diary. Both of them will be found very useful.

The Bank of Montreal Calendar is a work of art. The illuminations are of exceptional beauty, the title being especially effective. The groups of maple leaves are charming displays of colour. Pictures are given of the bank's old building, its present one, and as it will appear when improvements in progress are complete.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce Savings Department issues a dainty Calendar, the size of an invitation card to a social function. The shield with the bank's colours, girdled by a wreath of maple leaves and surmounted by a gold caduceus, is an elegant bit of work.

The Royal Insurance Company's Calendar is unique in design and elegant in effect. On a white ground are placed three maple leaves in their June and Fall richness of colour, from a deep green to a blaze of purple and red. As the leaves are embossed the effect is most striking and realistic. The title is in gothic letter illuminated in gold, Indian red and blue. The Royal crown and monogram, R.I.C., adorn the upper and lower corners, and an oval shield contains the Royal arms. "A thing of beauty" is the Royal Calendar.

The Liverpool & London & Globe Calendar is somewhat sombre, but it will be a favourite with those who prefer quiet colours that do not weary the eye, as the figures are very clear and easily readable at a distance.