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Obscure Injuries.

THE medical director of the Manhattan Life Insurance Company of New York declares that obscure injuries, which are accountable for many mysterious deaths, are very frequently injuries received by young men in athletic games, especially football. In lacrosse, blows on the head are frequent, which leave results that are "obscure" for years, until some excitement occurs, or another blow on the same place, which prove fatal. A case is known to us of such an injury being received, and leaving no sign, yet in ten years afterwards, the recipient, an athlete, dropped dead as the direct result of an unsuspected weakness that had been caused in a blood vessel in the brain, the death occurring, when the man was apparently well and hearty, from sudden excitement. Another case, which gave rise to a law suit, was that of a person injured in a railway accident. There was literally no mark, or sign of injury, nor immediate ill effects beyond a slight soreness on the scalp, and headache. After some years this person died at his dinner table while hilarious with enjoyment at a child's birth-day. Happily his medical adviser was a very able man, and he warned the company, when the accident occurred, that his patient might have been seriously injured, and he would hold them responsible for damages—which were recovered. The modern craze for violence in games is an element of risk to life assurance companies, from these "obscure injuries," which they need to take great care to avoid suffering from, as applicants liable to develop some weakness of this class are usually "sound in wind and limb" and apparently "good lives."

A Pithy Judgment.

LORD Chief Justice Coleridge has a great reputation for stating cases sententiously. He has as great a dislike to legal verbiage as the profession is credited with having a love of its intricacies and confusion. In

a recent appeal case this eminent Judge put the agreement between the Mortgage Insurance Corporation and one Simpson, who had insured his deposit in an Australian bank, almost in words of one syllable, thus:—"You pay us so much a year for five years, and at the end of five years we will pay you what the bank guaranteed against has not paid you, and so much of the interest as the bank has not paid. If, when called on, the bank could not pay, the company must make up the deficit." Out of 59 words, Chief Justice Coleridge used 53 monosyllables in a judgment delivered in the Court of Queen's Bench. The decision can be inferred from the way the Court interpreted the agreement; as the deposit insured was not paid by the bank when demanded, the insuring company were adjudged liable.

Disastrous Competition.

SINCE railways began, no such wholesale disasters ever overtook them as those last year, both in the States and England. In the old land the roads lost, in some instances, 50 per cent. of their average freight owing to the coal miners' strike, but not one became insolvent. In the States many of the longest railways are to-day in hands of receivers. These financial disasters are doubtless to a large extent owing to excessive competition cutting rates below the line of profit. The Philadelphia Press gives the freight rates since 1865 as stated in the report of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway. We give them in ten year periods, from 1865 to 1874, average per ton per mile 3.10 cents; 1875 to 1884, 1.83 cents; 1885 to 1893, 1.03 cent. A drop from 4.11 cents to 1.03 is a cut of 75 per cent. in the rate of freight per ton per mile. The freight senders have been chuckling over the cheap rates enforced by them on the freight carriers. But we venture to say that, if the whole operation could be analyzed, it would be found that the general welfare of the country was not, in the long run, furthered by competition that cut rates so low as to drive railways into insolvency.

Free accident policies.

WE recently declared that the plan becoming so common of newspaperers and tradesmen offering accident policies as baits to draw custom would lead them into