

A NEW BUILDING CODE WANTED IN NEW YORK.

At the present time, great interest attaches to the discussion of the adoption of a new building code for this city which will tend in the future to a smaller loss both of life and of property. While many of the buildings recently constructed have been built along fairly model lines, the city is filled with flimsy buildings comprising fire traps of every description in which the losses of life and property, which have recently taken place, might at any time be repeated. The object of the building code is to provide not only for careful building in the immediate future, but also for thorough inspection of the structures which are already in existence, to the end that the sacrifice to the flames may be stopped or at least modified. Of course, no building code which could now be enacted can operate at once—perhaps not in this generation—to bring about the desired results. However, a start must be made sometime, and there are all the future generations to be considered.

FIRE UNDERWRITERS' IMPORTANT MEETINGS.

Two important meetings have recently been held in this city, one, the annual meeting of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, and the other that of the National Fire Protection Association which has just closed a three days' session. The National Board is, of course, only an advisory body, not legislating in regard to rates, but merely using its influence for better practices, and providing statistics showing the experience of the business for many years. Another of its important functions is the employment of competent engineers for the inspection of the principal cities of the country where defects are pointed out and suggestions made, both for the benefit of fire underwriters and for action by the city governments.

The National Fire Protection Association which is practically supported by the National Board, deals with specific problems, such as the use of fire prevention devices, and is composed of the best talent along this line to be found in the country. Its recommendations as to building construction, the standards of fire hose and other apparatus and the use of inflammable materials have great weight with the underwriters of the country, and incidentally with the public. The meeting just closed was one of the most important ever held.

NOTES.

The 10th anniversary of the Insurance Society of New York, was held on the 23rd instant, and was very successful, many prominent fire insurance men of the city being in attendance.

On the 18th instant, all the leading companies writing a plate-glass business in this country, held a meeting at the Hotel Astor, and organized a national body to be known as the Plate-Glass Service & Information Bureau, which is expected to be in operation by July 1st, and to aid greatly in the adoption and carrying out of more harmonious relations among the companies, as well as better underwriting practices.

Those companies which write a burglary insurance business, report losses very heavy during the

moving season, on account of thefts which have been committed by those taking advantage of property being in transit, and which is liable to go astray.

The election of Mr. George W. Babb, manager of the Northern Assurance Company, of London, as president of the National Board, gave great satisfaction to his many friends. Mr. Babb has worked earnestly and conscientiously in the interests of fire insurance, and especially of fire protection in this city, for many years.

The Executive Committee of the National Board has chosen Manager E. G. Richards, of the North British & Mercantile, as chairman.

Among recent important departures for Europe are Vice-President Haley Fiske, of the Metropolitan Life, and William J. Tulley, general counsel of the same company.

The Life Underwriters' Association, of this city, held its May meeting on the evening of the 26th inst. Among other features of the entertainment was a lecture by the famous pedestrian, Edward Paysan Weston.

As foreshadowed in this correspondence some time ago, the Liverpool & London & Globe is organizing a casualty company to do business in this country and to be known as the Globe Indemnity Company. The president will be Henry W. Eaton, United States Manager of the Liverpool & London & Globe, and the Company will write casualty business of all kinds.

General Manager Gerald H. Ryan, of the Phoenix of London, sailed recently for England on the steamship Lusitania.

A recent arrival in this city, is Assistant Manager Uhlig, of the Munich Reinsurance Company, of Munich, Germany.

The Metropolitan Life recently paid a claim of \$100,000 on the life of a policyholder who had made only two annual payments of \$2,460.40 each. The subject died of pneumonia on April 3, 1911, in his forty-first year.

QUERIST.

New York, May 31, 1911

THE LIFE AGENTS' MANUAL.

THE CHRONICLE has pleasure in announcing that arrangements are now being made for the issue of the fourteenth edition of the Life Agents' Manual, revised and brought down to date.

The coming into force of the Dominion Insurance Act of 1910, as well as normal changes in the operations of the life companies in the Canadian field, make this revision necessary. For many years the Life Agents' Manual has occupied a unique position as the standard book of its kind in Canada, and there are numerous indications that it is appreciated to an increasing extent by agents and life officers.