

dense fog through which he cannot see his way until a flash from a tutor's lantern is thrown into the gloom, and a clear path revealed. A tutorless student usually falls into the habit of desultory, irregular reading; not a bad habit in itself, but a fatale one from an educational point of view.

THE ROOMS OF THE MONTREAL INSURANCE INSTITUTE.

On Monday evening last, 30th ult., the opening of the rooms of the Montreal Insurance Institute, was celebrated by an informal reception of members and visitors by the Governing Council. Had the insurance quartette been on hand, they would have enlivened the proceedings by singing the glee,

"Up rouse ye then, my merry, merry men,
This is our opening day!"

This would have been more appropriate than the accompaniment of dance music in the next room, which was kept up during the proceedings.

The rooms now open to members of the Institute, comprise a Library, Writing-Room, and Lecture Hall. The entrance to the two former is on the East side of McGill College Avenue, near St. Catherine street; the Lecture Hall door is on St. Catherine, the three rooms being back to back, but not connected.

The Library is a comfortable, home-like apartment, as is also the Writing-Room, which is to be used for meetings of the Governing Council. The Lecture Hall has accommodation for 100 auditors. A platform is fixed in the S. E. corner, which is a very convenient position for speakers addressing an audience, as they are ranged before this "coign of vantage," in an irregular, semi-circle, if we may be allowed to follow the President of the British Archaeological Society, Carlyle, and other eminent writers, by using this phrase.

At the meeting Mr. E. P. Heaton, president, took the Chair. Dr. Andrew Macphail read a paper on, "The after history of rejected lives," which was based upon the results of his own enquiries, as a medical examiner. His experience was not confirmatory of the ordinary judgment as to the high rate of mortality amongst those whose applications for a life policy had been rejected. He had tabulated 5,115 applications, of which 409, equal to 11 per cent., had been declined, extending over fifteen years. Of these, the number of deaths, and causes thereof, he had, as far as possible, investigated. Out of 235 cases, whose history, subsequent to rejection he had examined into, he had found 202 living, thirty-one deaths having occurred after an interval of five to fifteen years. The lecturer entered into a consideration of mortality statistics, from which he drew the conclusion that the normal deaths in these cases would have been twenty-five, whereas, amongst those whose lives had been rejected, there had been thirty-one deaths, or six in excess of the normal. The risk of error attendant upon over-reliance being placed on statistics, was pointed out, and a caution given against those whose applications had been rejected being depressed and over apprehensive. The life

companies, necessarily, had to be guided by inviolable rules, such as experience had shown to be prudent.

A brief discussion of the paper took place, in which Messrs. Burke, B. Hal. Brown, and Wood took part, after which a cordial vote of thanks was passed, after which a cordial vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Macphail for his very able and interesting paper.

The Insurance Institute having now provided "a local habitation" for the accommodation of its members, will, we trust, receive such support and recognition as will encourage the president and his colleagues of the Governing Council in their most commendable efforts to make this institution highly popular amongst the insurance officials of this city. The value and extent of its services in creating an *esprit de corps* amongst them, and in stimulating and aiding younger members in their professional studies depends largely upon the interest taken by the members generally, in the work of the Insurance Institute. If this is manifested, if every member will recognize that he must help to "push the chariot along," the Institute will grow into a power of good, and an influence for benefiting all insurance interests. The alternative we shall not speak of as a possibility. In the bright lexicon of the Institute, there ought to be no such word as "fail."

THE INSURANCE INSTITUTE OF TORONTO.

The next meeting of the Institute will be held on Tuesday evening, December 8, 1903. A paper will be read on the subject of "Fire Insurance as an Exact Science," by Mr. Charles D. Cory.

This will be followed by a discussion on Mr. Arthur J. Hughes' paper on "A Method of Ascertaining the Cost of an Agency," which was read at the last meeting of the Institute.

Pursuant to the recent survey, Mr. Robert Howe, C.E., Fire Appliance Inspector of the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association, will give a short explanation of the Toronto Water Works System, illustrated by a map of the city and a chart of the system.

The Chair will be taken by the president promptly at 8 p.m. The members are especially requested to be in their seats at that time.

In connection with this notice, the resolution of Mr. Heaton, president of the Montreal Institute, to have meetings commence on time, is highly to be commended.

INSURANCE INSTITUTES PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITION.

The Federation of Insurance Institutes of Great Britain and Ireland offers a prize of £10 10s., about \$51.20, for an Essay on, "The Theory and Practice of Fire Insurance Business."

The following are the Conditions of the Competition: "Gentlemen living in centres where there is no Insurance Institute or society, who may desire to compete, can qualify under condition No. 1, by applying for membership to one or other of the under-noted Institutes: Montreal, T. L. Morrissey, Insur-