

there is of course no possible agreement. If practical efficiency makes an actuary, then good-bye to the Institute, for its "*raison d'être*" disappears; and if, on the other hand, mathematical ability is to make the actuary, then good-bye to the idea that the actuary is to be the chief officer of the life company. No board of directors will appoint as their manager a man who is too "mathematical." The plain truth is, and I confess it with much sorrow, that no actuarial knowledge at all is required for the successful management of a life office. The actuarial work is better done by a subordinate officer, and there is no more need for the manager to be an actuary than to be a doctor, or a lawyer, or a surveyor. Some of the best life managers I have known could not have solved a quadratic equation, if the success of their office had depended upon their doing so—which it did not.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS DROPPED.

We have a new life assurance scheme before us, suggested by the Sun Life. Policies are to be issued without medical examination. This sounds rash, but the conditions upon which such policies can be obtained remove most of the rashness. The applicant must appear at the office, declare himself in good health, tell all about his mother and father, and must not die during the first five years; or, at all events, if he does so within that period, his assurance vanishes and his representatives only receive the premiums paid, with 5 per cent. compound interest. The idea is that a large number of people who have perfectly sound lives are now deterred from assuring their lives through the fear of the medical examination. Mr. Sutton, in his opening speech at the Institute, expressed this opinion; but I fancy that most of the people who fear the examination have very good reasons for doing so, although in some cases they may not themselves be sure what the real reasons are. An instinctive fear of the doctor is to my mind a very bad sign.

"OVERWORKED" GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

A dreadful dread is overhanging all officials here. The Government has determined that the official day shall in future be seven hours instead of six, and when, as might be expected, some of the officials expressed their horror at the proposal, it was more than hinted that some of them are not there always, at exactly 10 a.m. If ten to four is no longer governmental when can we hope to preserve it? The irresistible conclusion is too awful to express plainly, so I will leave it to your imagination!

TAMESIS.

Notes and Items.

Mr. W. S. Hughes has been appointed to represent the Atlas Assurance Co. at Cornwall.

Mr. Louis F. Heyd has recently been appointed agent at Brantford for the Atlas and National Assurance companies.

The February fire loss, according to the *Standard's* figures, was \$4,749,000. The total loss for February, 1889, was \$9,132,000.

We are under obligations to the Insurance Departments of Ohio, Colorado and Michigan for advance copies of insurance statistics.

Mr. Frederick Bell, long with the Sun Life of London, has been appointed assistant secretary of the Church of England Assurance Institution.

Mr. William Harty of Kingston has, we are informed, been appointed by the Equitable Life as its manager at Toronto for the Province of Ontario.

A new fire insurance company is proposed at Vancouver, B.C., to be called the Pacific Coast Fire Ins. Co., and to have a capital stock of \$500,000.

The firemen of Moncton, N.B., are to have accident insurance, each man paying \$1.50 and the town \$4.50 for \$1,000 policies having the usual features.

Robert McGregor Smith, late local manager of the Federal Fire Office at Glasgow, has been appointed superintendent of agents for Scotland of the Patriotic Assurance Company.

The "Argus" Insurance Chart for 1890, now in its fourteenth year, is more than usually full of information concerning fire insurance, and just the pocket companion which every agent needs.

The "Standard" Fire Insurance Tables for the current year come to us in excellent binding, and with contents which fully justify the high reputation which the publication has attained in the past.

The New England special agent of the Liverpool & London & Globe, Mr. A. C. Adams, has been obliged, on account of ill health, to take a vacation, and has sailed for a sojourn in the Windward Islands.

We regret to learn of the recent death of Mr. James M. Whitehead of Chicago, for many years the efficient general special of the Imperial Fire for the Western States. He was in the prime of manhood, being aged 40 years.

Some years ago the Alliance Assurance Co. of London absorbed the fire business of the Provincial; now it is announced that the same company is to take over the life business of the Provincial, and thus the company becomes extinct.

To the Indicator of Detroit we are under obligations for a bound volume of that excellent periodical for 1889, also for its pocket chart of "Fire Business in Michigan" for five years, put up in excellent form for ready reference.

Recent callers at THE CHRONICLE office include J. K. Macdonald, Toronto; R. Junkin, Brockville; A. S. McGregor, London; C. C. Hine, New York; Geo. E. Reid, Toronto; T. M. Marson, New York; and Louis Tessier, Quebec.

We congratulate the Independent of Chicago on the new typographical dress and general neat appearance assumed with the prefix to its old name, making it now the *Chicago Independent*, under which name may it have abundant success.

The death of Mr. James B. Northcott, secretary from 1855 to 1889 of the Manchester Fire Assurance Co., is announced. It will be remembered that we recently chronicled his retirement from the secretaryship and election as a director of the company.

Mr. Stephen E. Barton, for a long time the New England special agent of the Royal Ins. Co., has resigned. It is expected that he will be elected president of the Electric Light Mutual Ins. Co., now in process of organization, with headquarters in Boston.

Life Assurance in France.—During 1889 the 17 principal life companies of France wrote a total of \$78,071,684 new assurances, all but three showing a decrease as compared with 1888, the total decrease being \$6,055,375. During the year \$922,650 in annuities were granted.