a view to urging adoption by all the principal cities in the country. To this end a joint committee, consisting of three members chosen from each of the national associations named, was created as a permanent committee "on uniform building laws and the reduction of fire waste." We noted the beginning of this movement some time since at a meeting in New York, similar to the above, when the outlines of a desirable code were agreed upon and now made the basis of the uniform regulations to be recommended. The consideration of this question by the combined ability and experience of these national associations marks an important era, for the conclusions reached and the recommendations made cannot fail to carry great weight with legislators, resulting in improved building laws, than which nothing is more urgently needed.

Some of our exchanges are giving space, with mildly favorable comment, on the proposition of somebody that a life insurance company exclusively for the insurance of women be organized in the United States. But why for women exclusively? Some of the best companies in existence already freely issue policies upon the lives of women, and none who are insurable need look far for all the insurance they can pay for. We recognize the fact that there are thousands of unmarried women, wholly dependent upon their own labor for support, to whom a provision for the future through the medium of an endowment policy comes as a boon no less than to men. There are others, widows perhaps, with children dependent upon them, who wisely seek the protection which insurance affords, and still others, married women, who, under peculiar circumstances, may legitimately apply for insurance for the future benefit of dependent ones. And all these classes of women can get policies in strong well established companies at equitable rates. If women ought to be insured separately as a class, then why not classes of women have separate companies? Of course somebody will want a women's life insurance company for teachers, another for clerks, another for typewriters, and so on to the end of the chapter.

We notice that a committee of the National Association of Life Underwriters, charged with looking after the project of having a "bureau of information," made a report to the executive committee of the Association at its meeting in New York not long since, recommending that each local association shall keep a book containing the names and certain information concerning all agents in its field engaged in life insurance about whom the information would presumably be desirable to those members of the Association who employ agents. This list is supposed to embrace the names of such as are deemed to be undesirable, to which is to be added a special list to be known as the "black list," which shall contain the names of such agents as have been definitely charged with misconduct or shown to have been crooked. A member of each local association is to be designated to have the custody and revision of this book, and when a name is blacklisted it is to be sent to the secretary of the National Association, who passes it on to the custodians of all the local associations. The guarding of the noble army of life insurance workers from unworthy members and known scalawags is every way commendable; but we suggest that exceedingly great caution will be necessary in the working of the above or any similar plan, else injury may be done to worthy men through misinformation or hastily formed conclusions. The publication of a "black list," however seemingly desirable, is a rather ticklish business.

THE AVERAGE SIZE OF LIFE POLICIES.

It seems altogether likely that the popular impression about the large amount of life insurance carried upon a single life by the various companies, especially the older and larger ones, is of an exaggerated kind. A few of the very largest companies take $100,000, which, however, as a rule is reduced more or less by partial reinsurance in other companies, while almost any of the smaller good companies do not hesitate to take a $10,000 risk, other companies taking amounts anywhere between these two extremes. We do not think, however, that the large policies for $50,000 or $100,000 are very numerous among those companies whose maximum limit runs up to these figures. At least one thing is certain, viz., that the average amount per policy carried by the companies as a whole, either in this country, in Great Britain or in the United States, is anything but large, and doubtless much smaller than is popularly supposed.

For instance, the average amount insured per policy in Canada by all the life companies doing business here, industrial policies being excluded, is $1,786, basing the calculation on the 1890 reports. Classified, the averages are as follows: Canadian companies, $1,692; British companies, $2,028; American companies, $1,872. The latter, it will be remembered, include the three New York "giants." The average per policy of the British companies on total business reported by head offices is $2,410, of course excluding industrial business; and the average of all the American companies reporting to the New York insurance department for 1890 is $2,783. As a good many individuals carry two or more policies in the same company, of course the amount assured per *life* will be considerably larger than the amount per *policy*. Suppose, in the absence of exact knowledge as to the number of lives assured, we assume that the total number of policies in each case represents two-thirds that number of persons, we shall then have an average amount of assurance per life as follows: American companies, total business, $4,176; British companies, total business, $3,615; Canadian companies, total business, $2,548; Canadian business, all companies, $2,650. Taking the three great American companies—the Mutual Life, the Equitable and the New York Life—whose averages per policy are, for the first, $3,104; for the second, $3,643; and for the third, $3,282, and whose combined average per policy is $3,342, and on the above supposition that there are two-thirds as many lives as there are policies, we find the combined average carried on a single life to be $5,013. These are interesting facts, in themselves, relating to the general averages on assured lives by all the companies, whatever they may or may not indicate as to the percentage of large policies.