

sessed in relation to the community by any office in Great Britain. In Britain, an applicant for assurance is seen only by the medical examiner and perhaps one or two of the directors, who cannot by possibility know anything of his past history, and are altogether dependent upon the information presented in his papers. Numerous instances are on record of death occurring almost immediately after examination and acceptance. Such a case could hardly occur here, considering the circumstances of the country and its settlement; and he thought that the advantage thus possessed by this Company formed a fair set-off to any occasional failure in respect to medical skill. Of course, so far as the past is concerned, experience goes to show that the office has not lost from the circumstances that have been alluded to. The Directors never fail to exercise all possible caution, and results show that they have not very widely erred. This, however, should not lessen the force of the injunction which the Sheriff had addressed to Agents and Referees: they could not be too careful, especially in reference to the habits of applicants for assurance. Cases of excessive drinking may exist without the knowledge of the Board, but its members did their best to procure information on all points which, like that, could be considered of material importance.

It was customary on the part of the Board to mention the assistance received from the officers of the Company, and certainly they should not be passed over on this occasion. The praise accorded to the Secretary in former years had been well deserved in that which had just closed: no one could do more than he. Without stopping, however, to particularize, he (the President) would say that the Board had every reason to be satisfied with all the officers, as had been shown at a recent meeting by an increase of their re-