taken into consideration which have a bearing upon the central question involved. What I do mean is that the examiner should always remember that the central question is not—what is the matter with this man; but rather—how long will this man probably live?

The keen horseman looks at the horse in the paddock before the race, not with the eye of the trained veterinarian, but rather with a view to measuring his capacity to resist the exhausting strain of the race. In arriving at his conclusions he takes into account the horse's previous record, his pedigree, the care he has received in training, and so on; but the central factor in his mind is the condition of the vitality of the horse. It is just in this way that the medical examiner should measure the capacity of the applicant to live; and this is what I meant when I said that the practitioner when he examines for insurance must change his point of view. As our knowledge of the significance of other factors which enter into the value of a risk increases, we shall undoubtedly be able to estimate lives much more closely than we do at present; but this one of vital capacity, of ability to live, must always remain for the local examiner to decide; and he is the best examiner who learns to judge his subject most accurately from this point of view.

The medical aspect of life insurance, like other branches of medicine, has not stood still in the past ten years; not only along the business lines, but also along the medical, has progress been made. We, as medical men, have from time to time wondered at the action taken by insurance companies in declining risks with whose physical condition we, as physicians, were personally conversant, knowing as we did that the lives were insurable, even if they did possess some physical impairment, notwithstanding which, in our opinion, they had a tenure of life that should not have excluded them from the benefits of life insurance. How many cases have come to our knowledge of applicants for insurance who have first been informed of the presence of a cardiac murmur when they submitted themselves to the life insurance examiner, and which, in consequence of the findings of the examiner, the company has seen fit to decline. The appli-