

Big Insurance Business. Including fire insurance policies, the total amount assured at the Paris Exhibition is reported by English underwriters to be \$42,000,000, of which sum a considerable part is said to represent business transacted by the French companies. That there have been some pretty pickings in the way of premiums for the venturesome may be gathered from the reported insurance against theft alone for a total amount of \$16,000,000 of the paintings and objects of art in the Palaces of the Champs Elysée. The city of Paris insured its exhibit, against bold, bad burglars, for \$1,000,000, while the tapestries in the British Royal Pavillion are assured with English companies for \$20,000.

The Fatal Fourth. The annual celebration of Independence Day can hardly be a source of unqualified pleasure to nervous pedestrians, doting parents, and much concerned underwriters. Instead of the Glorious it might well be called the Fatal Fourth. From early morn until the last rocket "burns a hole in the night," and then falls through an open skylight and sets fire to the house; from the time when the first discharge of the toy cannon kills a small boy until the parting explosion of the murderous cannon firecracker removes the right hand of a full grown patriot, there is an undoubted blaze of excitement.

The patriotic feeling of our American cousins displayed itself in the old way on the 4th instant, and the result compares favorably with that of previous years. The latest estimate of casualties give the number of killed as thirty-four and the injured fourteen hundred and nine. This report only covers 129 cities. The fire loss caused by fireworks was somewhat disappointing, only amounting to \$123,327. While the premature discharge of Fourth of July cannon maintained a reputation for effectiveness as a destroyer of life, firecrackers and dynamite torpedoes assisted 442 persons to remember the day. The toy pistol and gunpowder explosions brought pain and anguish to 292 patriots.

When one scans the list of terrible mishaps arising from the use of fireworks to all comers, it is impossible to refrain from expressing surprise that something is not done in the interests of the preservation of life and property to prohibit or restrict the sale of such dangerous playthings. Yet we frankly admit that we would not like to be employed in enforcing a prohibitory law.

The Value of Re-Vaccination. The apprehension of impending danger exposure to the dreaded scourge of small-pox, is doing for many of our citizens that which prudence and a reasonable

regard for their own safety should have accomplished. Montreal is being vaccinated and re-vaccinated. If, in spite of the large number of faces marked with small-pox, there are still in our midst "any conscientious objectors" or persons who have avoided or evaded vaccination, they ought to be reminded of the effort made only last year by the British Medical Association (whose members met in Montreal, under the presidency of Dr. Roddick, in 1897) to impress upon the Imperial government the need of a Re-Vaccination Act. The most eminent men of the medical profession united in earnestly urging the passage of an Act to promote "the re-vaccination of children on reaching the age of about twelve years, and the primary vaccination of unvaccinated children on reaching the school age". Let us strenuously and persistently demand the same protection for Canadian children. Under the heading "Convinced by Facts", we find the following comments upon the same subject in the July number of the "Scottish Critic": "A severe visitation of small-pox is not an unmixed calamity in towns where vaccination and re-vaccination have been largely neglected. No sooner does a bad outbreak occur than, as at Hull on a recent occasion, fear operates to get that done which reason and prudence failed to accomplish. It invariably happens, too, that those who were loudest and fiercest in their hostility to the safeguard are among the first, when panic seizes a city, to rush to the vaccination officers. At Hull several hundreds of men employed at a single factory thus acted almost in a body; not one of them was willing to have the operation postponed until next day. Re-vaccination is almost as much in request, while some, resolved to be on the safe side, are having the operation repeated for a third time. As none of these scared citizens would have abated their antagonism or apathy but for the outbreak, Hull will be the gainer in the long run, as recalcitrant Gloucester has been, from the painful experiences through which it passed. The victims mostly to be pitied are the children of parents whose delicate "consciences" would not suffer their offspring to be safeguarded from the terrible disease. These unfortunates could not help being exposed to the scourge; that responsibility rested on their wrong-headed parents."

AN EMBRYO EDITOR.—"What is a synonym?" asked a teacher. "Please, sir, said a lad, "it's a word you can use in place of another if you don't know how to spell the other one."

LIFE INSURANCE IS A HEALTH RESTORATIVE.—Old and yet ever new and excellent is the following testimonial to the value of life insurance left by one of the best of American humorists, Bill Nye: "I say it behooves us to look well to our insurance and our future state, and I take pleasure in certifying and saying to whom these presents may come, that since I became fully insured my health has improved so much that it is a subject for profound congratulation on my own part, and the deepest disgust on the part of those who would inherit my vast wealth."