

Mortality from Small-Pox. Those who have been following with interest the recent discussion by life insurance journals of the vital importance of statistics as an argument favoring compulsory vaccination will find in the following figures further proof of the remarkable immunity of vaccinated people from small-pox. Dr. E. A. Heath says:—

"In Prussia, between the years 1868 and 1874, vaccination and revaccination were not compulsory, and the average yearly number of deaths from small-pox per 100,000 living was 90; while in 1875—that is, after the law of 1874 enforcing infant vaccination and the revaccination of children at the age of twelve had been passed—the mortality fell to 7 per 100,000 inhabitants. In 1877, 1878 and 1886 the mortality was still further reduced to 2, and in no other year since 1875 has it risen above 8. In Holland, from 1866 to 1872, before the passage of the law enforcing the vaccination of children on entering a school, the average mortality from small-pox was, as in Prussia, 90 per 100,000 inhabitants. Since 1873, with the exception of one year, when the mortality rose to 20, it has never been higher than 10, and has generally been below 5. In Austria, on the other hand, where vaccination is as yet not compulsory, the death rate from small-pox since 1868 has never been below, and only once as low as, 45 per 100,000 living, the average since 1875 having been about 60, and from 1868 to 1874, 120."

The compiler of these statistics very rightly remarks that comment is superfluous, and that he who runs may read the moral to be deduced from such a record.

Mr. Rutter. The present Manager and Secretary of the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company has long been a familiar figure in the world of insurance, and it is not surprising that his appointment has been productive of many biographical sketches of his highly successful career. This month's number of the "Bankers' Magazine," London, Eng., contains an excellent portrait of Mr. Rutter, and some interesting particulars of his connection with the Company in whose service he has passed twenty-six years. The successor to Mr. Fothergill is only forty. He entered the office of the London and Lancashire in 1873 at the early age of fourteen. But, although young, the future insurance manager had received the sound and excellent education of an English school-boy, had been a prize winner, and obtained a scholarship, and was well equipped by a peculiar proficiency at mathematics for his future career. A year later, the management of the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company was entrusted to Mr. Fothergill, who, during the period covering the business life of the subject of this sketch, guided the Institution into the very van of insurance companies. Mr. Rutter appears to have followed closely in the footsteps of his manager and mentor, and probably the latter was not slow to notice the aptitude of his pupil, and later

learned to fully appreciate the support of his able lieutenant. At all events, we find Mr. Rutter, after a few years in the home departments, appointed to the control of the newly-created American department, and, in 1885 (a young man of twenty-six), he was made chief of the foreign department of the ever-growing Company. Mr. Rutter will probably admit that the following four years, passed in travelling all round and about the civilized world in the interests of the company he now controls, was a very liberal education. In 1889, his interesting experiences as a cosmopolite came to a close. He was promoted to the position of assistant secretary, and, two years later, he was drawn still closer to his old chief, and, as sub-manager, shared in Mr. Fothergill's counsel, and assisted him in conducting a business which during their connection therewith had quadrupled.

The school-boy of 1873 is now the Manager and Secretary of a large and successful insurance company. He is familiar with the business he assisted to create in different parts of the world, he has knowledge and experience, and the bright prospects of the London and Lancashire are not likely to grow dim under the management of Mr. F. W. P. Rutter.

The company is represented in Canada by Mr. Alfred Wright of Toronto, as Chief Agent, and the Montreal Agents are Messrs. Evans & Johnson.

Sound an Alarm.

On Tuesday last a member of the Canadian Parliament rose in the House, enquired as to the ownership of the Plains of Abraham, and wanted to know whether the Government intends to purchase the property. Mr. Hughes, M.P., is not alone in his desire to know if there is any real cause for anxiety at the bugle-note of warning that was blown westward across the wintry seas from London in December last. The warning was conveyed in the following paragraph in the Canadian "Gazette":—

"In scarcely less degree than Canadians themselves, Englishmen will learn with amazement and incredulity of the possibility that the historic Plains of Abraham may fall into the hands of the speculative builder. It seems that the lease by which the Dominion Government at present holds the site expires three or four years hence, and it is feared that the nuns of the Hotel-Dieu, who own the land, will be sorely tempted to offer it for sale rather than renew the Government's tenancy on the virtually nominal terms at present in force. It is well, no doubt, that a note of alarm should be struck in due time, and that pressure, if needs be, should be brought to bear upon the Government to take steps to secure in perpetuity a site which is linked with one of the great dramatic events in the country's history. But, for our part, we can hardly believe for a moment that the Dominion authorities will not take effective measures to prevent an act of vandalism which would horrify all Canada and Great Britain."