

Old Banknotes.

The oldest banknotes in the world are the "flying money," or the convenient money first issued in China in 2697 B.C. One writer tells us that these ancient banknotes were in many respects similar to those of our own day, bearing the name of the bank, the date of issue, the number of the note, of the official who issued it, and its value in both figures and words. On the top of these curious notes was the following injunction: "Produce all you can; spend with economy." The note was printed in blue ink on paper made from the fibre of the mulberry tree. One of these curious banknotes, bearing the date of 1399 B.C., may be seen in the Asiatic Museum in St. Petersburg.

The Better Way.

The following is a letter written by a young man to his friend, in which he gives him some advice on the kind of life assurance to take for his protection:

"DEAR JACK,—I have your letter of the 25th instant regarding our conversation on life assurance.

"I am awfully glad you are becoming interested, for really your wife and bairnies are at great peril every moment you are unprotected. I knew if I could start you thinking on the matter your good sense would soon force you to action, and it's a wholesome sign that you are seeking information.

"You say that your friend has been urging you to join a fraternal society; that they give life assurance at actual cost, and that they have jolly times at their meetings, dances, etc. Well, Jack, I am going to give you my ideas of the matter, and I am going to give a little of my time this evening to lay the matter before you.

"I have some of both. Long ago I joined a fraternal society. I don't think I will give you its name, but it is the biggest thing of its kind in America; and I also have a policy in a regular old line company, and I will give you in cold figures how I look at the matter. I am not going to say a word against the 'ice-cream-and-cake' feature of the fraternal society, but only its insurance advantages. Let us see how our fraternal society pans out in dollars and cents. I think you told me you are thirty, so I will take this age, as it will have a more personal application to you.

"At age thirty the fraternal society will cost you \$1.49 per month—that is \$17.88 per year. Let us trace this out for twenty years, for then you will be a half-centenarian, and a dollar will have more value to you than it has to-day.

The Annual Premium Payment	Will amount to	Should you wish to withdraw you will get	Your assurance will have cost you each year
\$17.88 for 5 years	\$ 89.40	Nothing	\$17.88
17.88 " 10 "	178.80	"	17.88
17.88 " 15 "	268.20	"	17.88
17.88 " 20 "	357.60	"	17.88

"If you would take out a Twenty Payment Life with the old line Company I am assured in, it would at age thirty cost you \$27.85 a year. That looks bigger than \$1.49 a month or \$17.88 a year, but let us give it the same treatment we have given the Fraternal and we will see where the difference comes in:

The Annual Premium Payment	Will amount to	Should you wish to withdraw the Company would pay you	or a paid-up policy of	Your assurance will have cost you each year
\$27.85 for 5 years	\$139.25	\$ 77.00	\$ 250.00	\$12.45
27.85 " 10 "	278.50	215.00	500.00	6.35
27.85 " 15 "	417.75	350.00	750.00	4.53
27.85 " 20 "	557.00	566.00	1000.00	Nothing

"The fraternal society will give you no guarantee that their rates will not increase; the old line company will guarantee this. The fraternal society will