

ASSETS.		
Investments—		
Sinking Funds...	15,145,821	11,627,697
Other Investments...	26,661,851	28,301,851
Province Accounts...	2,296,429	2,296,429
Miscellaneous and Banking Accounts...	98,640,635	110,062,052
Total Assets...	142,744,736	152,288,029
Total Net Debt 31st July...	\$328,615,687	\$327,181,427
do to 30th June...	322,405,329	322,241,670
Increase of Debt...	\$6,210,358	\$4,939,757

THE METROPOLITAN LIFE'S NURSING SERVICE.

Some interesting details are now available regarding the nursing service of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company of New York to its industrial policyholders. This service was established as recently as 1909, but so rapidly has it grown that during the half year ending June 30 last, 320,777 visits were paid by nurses in 473 cities and towns, and the service is at present available to the holders of over 6,600,000 of the industrial policies of the company. Moreover, the company is making preparations for the service to cover the entire country, at a cost of \$500,000 a year. "We cannot yet tell," Vice-President Fiske says in a statement to the Insurance Press, "whether, as a matter of economy, the system will or will not pay. Some curious facts have been observed. For instance, more than once we have taken two cities of about the same size and industrial conditions and found that the death rate experienced by the company in the city in which we had a nursing service had decreased very much more than it had in the same period of time in the other city where we have no nursing service. Of course, it is not claimed that this comparison is any conclusive evidence, and yet it would be curious if it were merely accidental. Whatever else is true, it is true that we are meeting, and in a practical way, the responsibility that we feel towards the people who support us."

In the working out of the nursing system the agents are instructed to report immediately any case of sickness among policyholders. The policyholders themselves are furnished with cards ready for mailing to the district offices in case of sickness. Either by the mailing of a postal card or by a message from the agent the nursing organization gets immediate notice of sickness and a trained nurse is sent to the bedside. If the sickness be at all serious, and no physician is in attendance, the nurse's duty is to insist upon the family employing a physician, or getting a public physician in the case of the family's inability to pay. Then the nurse places herself under the direction of the attending physician, and gives such attention to the patient as the physician in charge of the case requires. Sometimes this attention consists of daily visits, making the patient comfortable and giving directions about care and medicine; in some cases where the disease is malignant or serious a special

nurse is in attendance as long as necessity requires. All this without any expense to the policyholder.

It was in June, 1909, that the nursing service received its first trial in a portion of New York City. Two months later the field comprised New York, Baltimore and Washington. In September, 1909, Chicago, Cleveland, St. Louis and Boston were added. In the early part of 1910, Montreal, Worcester, Lowell, Trenton, Harrisburg, Buffalo and Cincinnati were organized. During the remainder of 1910, 66 other cities were added to the list, so that at the end of last year 90 cities were being covered. The nursing service has expanded even more rapidly since the beginning of 1911. In January, 32 cities were organized, in February, 19; in March, 28; in April, 27; in May, 20, and in June, 21. So that, in all there were 240 nursing services in cities on June 30 last and 233 services in smaller places, chiefly suburban towns adjoining the larger cities.

In June two years ago the Metropolitan's nurses made 751 visits. In June one year ago they made 27,901 visits. In June this year they made 58,201 visits. The number of cases nursed rose from 222 in June, 1909, to 5,374 in June, 1910, and to 10,543 in June, 1911.

Of the great value of this nursing system, there is ample evidence in a citation of a number of individual cases, from all parts of the United States and from Canada.

Notes on Business.

Federal Life Appointment.

At a meeting of the full Board of Directors of the Federal Life Assurance Company on the 3rd inst., the appointment of Mr. Alfred N. Mitchell, as assistant general manager was confirmed, to take effect from the first of September next. Mr. Mitchell has been connected with the management of the Manufacturers Life Insurance Company for some time past and is a man of large experience in life insurance work. The appointment was made necessary owing to the large increase in the business of the Company and Mr. Mitchell should prove a very capable executive officer and an able assistant to the General Manager.

At the same meeting Mr. W. H. Davis, who has been connected with the Company for several years, was appointed Secretary.

Another British Bank Difficulty.

Following closely upon the Birkbeck Bank suspension, cables at the close of last week stated that there were difficulties in the case of the Yorkshire Penny Bank, a very well-known institution, with its head office at Leeds, and with deposits double the size of those of the Birkbeck Bank. Apparently, this bank has been helped out by other banks, though the cables do not make clear the reason why for the necessary helping-out. It is stated by some that the difficulties are simply due to rapid growth of business beyond the capital, while by others an undermining of assets by the