

ACTUARIAL SOCIETY'S EXAMINATIONS.

The examinations of the Actuarial Society of America were held on the 7th of June in four places, viz:—In new York City, in the office of the Equitable Life Association Society under the supervision of Mr. J. G. Van Cise; in Philadelphia in the Penn Mutual Life office with Mr. Jesse J. Barker as Supervisor; in Worcester, Mass., in the State Mutual Life Building under the supervision of Mr. Wm. L. Starr; and in Toronto in the Canada Life Building, with Mr. Frank Sanderson as Supervisor. The examinations were both for admission to the grade of Associate, and for the admission of Associates to full Membership.

The questions were prepared by the Examination Committee, Messrs. Fackler, Nichols and Gore, and sent to the Supervisors to be given to the candidates, whose written answers were then forwarded to the Examination Committee, who will examine the papers and decide whether the candidates have passed or not. Last year only one-half of the candidates passed the examination.

Notes and Items.**At Home and Abroad.**

NO UNBELIEVERS IN MEDICINE NEED APPLY.—The Philadelphia *Medical Journal*, in calling attention to the dangerous growth of belief in so-called Christian science and faith cure, remarks: We are glad to see that at last the insurance societies are beginning to realize the evident fact of the heightening of the risk of applicants who crazily ignore the work of scientific medicine in saving and lengthening life. Because they are bad risks, the Supreme Lodge of the Knights of Honor in session in Buffalo last week has voted to exclude Christian scientists and faith curists from the order. We would suggest that the list be extended to osteopaths and all the horde of anti-medical cranks, and that all life insurance companies draw the line as has the Knights of Honor. It is unjust that sane people who use common sense in the care of their lives should have their premiums raised because the companies are compelled to pay the inevitable losses accruing from the unnecessary deaths of the foolish and semi-insane.

THE WORLD'S GOLD OUTPUT.—The Director of the United States Mint, talking to a correspondent of the *Evening Post* on Tuesday last, said: "The phenomenal gold output of the world in the calendar year 1899, will probably be nearly equalled this year, in spite of the shut-down of the mines in South Africa. I should say \$300,000,000 would be a fair estimate of this year's yield, and after peace has once more come, provided no new disturbing factors intervene, the world's gold output will not be long in reaching \$400,000,000 per annum. Although South Africa remains at the head of the column, the United States, now that the Klondike and Cape Nome are both producing, is likely to follow only a little way behind. An estimate received here this morning places the gold output of the Klondike for this year at \$18,000,000. We are expecting about \$10,000,000 from Cape Nome. This Klondike estimate, by the way, is the work of a local newspaper reporter in

that section, but it seems to be very intelligently prepared. The South African disturbance affected last year's total as well as this, but obviously for not so long a time, and so if the world's total keeps up to \$300,000,000 it will mean a gratifying increase in other quarters."

A PLAYGROUND OF DIPLOMACY.—A British naval officer, writing anonymously to the London *Times*, but clearly of high standing, his letter being accorded the honors of leaded type, says that the real cause of the uprising in China is the fact that for years the great Powers have regarded that country as the playground of their diplomacy, and have been carrying on the interesting game of outwitting each other for a number of years, without ever, for one moment, taking into consideration the opinions or feelings of the millions of natives, or believing in the possibility of that concerted action on the part of the Chinese of which there have been so many neglected warnings. He argues that the British policy of constant suspicion of Russia which Lord Salisbury some time ago declared to be exploded, but which has been pursued steadily nevertheless, is responsible for the whole trouble. That policy, the writer argues, is confessedly a humiliating failure, and he proceeds to declare that the only satisfactory solution of the Chinese problem will be found in the cordial cooperation of England and Russia, and he urges the British Foreign Office to utilize the acknowledged friendliness of the Czar for Great Britain towards securing a permanent settlement of that far-Eastern question, which has so long been the terror of diplomatists.

BENEFIT OF HAVING TROUBLES.—There are others than insurance managers who may find in the following story from the *Kansas Star* a timely reminder of what they are paid for." A director in a leading insurance company, with home offices in the East, passed through this city recently and called upon the Western manager of the company, with offices here. While they were at luncheon together the Western manager poured out to the director the story of his troubles, and there was a long list of these troubles. Everything seemed to be going wrong in the various departments. The director said nothing, but nodded his seeming comprehension of what the manager was saying. He appeared interested, and the manager, when he had concluded, awaited for some words of sympathy. The director poised his eyeglasses between the thumb and forefinger of his hand and then said, reflectively:

"You're lucky, young man. Exceedingly lucky."

The manager was astonished, and said so.

"But, don't you see," said the director, "if it wasn't for these very troubles you would not have a job? If everything ran along smoothly we would not need you, and would save the salary we are paying you. The office boy could do the work. Your troubles are what make your bread and butter."

The manager thinks better of his troubles now."

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

We acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of the report for 1900 of the Superintendent of Insurance for the State of Michigan.