accomplishment of the provident purposes for which they were contributed by the assured. Caution is now more than ever needed; for it is impossible carefully to review the aspect of the Life Assurance world of Great Britain without coming to the conclusion that it is beset with indications the reverse of satisfactory. Many offices are evidently losing ground in public estimation, and in many cases not without good cause; for some adhere to methods of management which are certainly not calculated to strengthen public confidence, while a few are notoriously insolvent. He mentioned the circumstance with no disposition to be invidious, and certainly with no wish to create alarm amongst parties already assured or who contemplate assuring their lives. An eminent actuary of an English office not long ago pointed exultingly to the fact that no British life office, based upon the acknowledged data of the system, had ended in insolvency; but it must not therefore be inferred that insolvency in Life Assurance is impossible. This, however, must always be remembered, that such a contingency can only arise as the product of unwise or dishonest management, and in no respect implies weakness or danger in the system itself. It is because the system *per se* is essentially unassailable that its true friends are bound to protest with jealous care against every attempt to entail upon it an odium which only the abuse of it can properly merit. Every man intending to assure may be supposed to compare the relative merits and peculiarities of offices, and if this were always, or even in the majority of instances, intelligently done—if glare and tinsel were set aside in favor of what is substantial and enduring—there would be little occasion for fear. Hence the conscientious advocates of the system may with propriety avail themselves of every opportunity to expose fraud or error, and especially to familiarize the public with easy and available tests with which to measure the comparative strength of different offices. The dangers he had spoken of are entirely the results of bad management—intentionally persisted in, he feared, in some cases, even after the blunder had been discovered. In conducting an examination with the view of revealing weakness