

Act; its existence has been overlooked. It seems, however, that the Society was formed in 1884, and is presided over by Mr. Ernest Hart, a well known sanitary reformer, and editor of the *British Medical Journal*. He is assisted in the directorate by several well-known practitioners in London and the Provinces. The rates of contribution and benefit have been calculated by Mr. F. G. P. Neison, F. I. A., and may therefore be considered to be trustworthy. The operations of the Society seem to have been somewhat limited; but notwithstanding some heavy demands in the sickness department, a satisfactory accumulated fund has been got together, and it would be well for the profession generally if the society were better known, and if it were registered under the Companies Act, in order that it might transact legitimate life business. The membership of the society in the United Kingdom numbers about 1,500.

The Health Assurance Company, which has for some years maintained a struggling existence, has at length found refuge in the Palatine Assurance Company of Manchester. There can be no two opinions as to the propriety of the step taken by the management of the weak Health in transferring its risks to the more robust Palatine.

The Institute of Journalists, which has for some time past had under consideration schemes connected with sickness and accident insurance, has finally come to an arrangement with the Sickness and Accident Association, limited, of Edinburgh. The chief difficulty experienced by the council of the Institute in forming a Society of their own lay, it seems, in the nature of the profession of the members, which precluded the possibility of securing a fixed and efficient control over its operations. The rates of the Association, having been certified by Mr. James Meikle, F.I.A., and Mr. Geo. King, F.I.A., may be regarded as perfectly safe. The Association has a subscribed capital of £76,500, and the reserve fund at the end of last year was £5,000.

The State Fire Insurance company, whose formation I reported some time ago, has issued its first report (for 8 months), showing that the net premiums received during that period were £15,462. The losses during the same period were £60 only. The expenses of management, and commission, amounted to about £5,400, leaving £9,000 to the good, besides a sum of £2,000 derived from interest. The company has paid off its preliminary expenses, and has shown its powers of self-restraint by refraining to pay a dividend. The Directors, it should be noted, gave their services gratuitously during 1891.

It is no secret that the London, Edinburgh & Glasgow Life is in a bad way. Its affairs have reached a crisis which, I fear, will end in a regular breakdown. I hope it may not come to that, but at present it looks inevitable. Rash and unskillful management appear to be the causes of the crisis.

The Age of Sanitation may be said to be that of the Victorian era, i.e., reckoning from a period close upon the ascension of the Queen Victoria to the English throne some very remarkable results have been obtained through the efforts of sanitary reformers. These results have been set forth in detail by Sir Charles Cameron at the Annual Provincial Congress of sanitary Officers, etc., recently held at Portsmouth. Sir Charles in his address points out that many millions of money have been expended during the Victorian era in the execution of sanitary works and in the maintenance of a large staff of officers, and he asks two questions: 1. Whether the results have justified the expenditure. 2. Whether they are of such a nature as to encourage sanitarians to continue the outlay and to put forth increased exertion; and he thinks, after making due allowance for failures arising through neglect or unwisdom, that both questions may be answered in the affirmative. In proof of his view, Sir Charles shows that since the public health acts of 1870-72 were passed (these being the culminating results of years of sanitary agitation), the death rate of this country fell in the towns from 24.7 per 1,000 to 20.4, and in the rural districts from 19.5 to 17.5 in a comparison of the periods 1851-60 and 1881-90 respectively; and this decrease appeared and was maintained in spite of the continued increase in the density of the urban populations.

The lamentable collapse of building societies that has occurred during the last 3 or 4 years is causing the attention of the public to be directed strongly to the superiority of endowment assurance as an investment. The lack of supervision over building societies that exists is lamentable, and hundreds of persons who can ill-afford to lose their savings are deliberately robbed by designing persons who can establish and conduct

such societies without any control whatever. The attention of Parliament is to be called to the matter, but meanwhile the evil is going on. Of course there are many building societies against which no charge can be laid, but they are the exception.

LONDON, Oct. 18, 1892.

VIGILANS.

Notes and Items.

The Standard Life and Accident insurance company of Detroit has increased its deposit with the Michigan insurance department to \$200,000.

The defaulting treasurer, O'Brien, of the Catholic Knights of America, who got away with \$76,000 about a year ago has been captured in Philadelphia.

Our acknowledgments are due to Insurance Commissioner Duryee of New Jersey for Part II of the insurance report of that State for 1891.

The Western Department of the United Fire insurance company at Chicago, of which Mr. Geo. M. Fisher is manager, will report direct to the head office in England.

The modified government scheme of New Zealand requiring foreign insurance companies to deposit \$50,000 in securities as a condition of transacting business in the colony has been abandoned.

We are in receipt of the "Indicator's Chart of Life Casualty and Fidelity business in Michigan," covering a period of five years, from the F. H. Leavenworth Publishing Company of Detroit.

An alleged firm, of "non-board fire insurance brokers," under the name of Mitchell, Watson & Co. of Chicago, are sending out soliciting circulars inviting business. Let Canadian agents give them a wide berth.

Farm rates in New Jersey have been fixed by the board of the Middle Department at 35 cents for one year on dwellings, 70 cents for 3 years, and \$1.05 for 5 years. On barns, 1 year 60 cents, 3 years \$1.20, 5 years \$1.80.

The number of accidents occurring on the World's Exposition grounds at Chicago up to September 1 was 648, of which 16 proved fatal. Of the others, 25 were seriously and 607 slightly injured. So says the *Investigator*.

A company to insure against blindness, wholly or partial, has been formed in England with \$125,000 capital. It is to "indemnify against loss and extra expense," whether from accident, disease or otherwise.

The Coast Review of San Francisco claims that the new offices in that city of the Equitable Life, in the Crocker Building, are the finest west of New York. Mahogany furniture, marble stairs and rich carpets and rugs figure in the description.

Suit has been entered by the Richelieu & Ontario Navigation Company against the fifteen insurance companies given in our last issue, which agreed on the adjusted loss of \$20,000 on the steamer "Corinthian," burned a few weeks ago. The R. & O. Company want \$40,000. Unprejudiced underwriters regard the award of the arbitrators as a fair one.