## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The Insurance Policyholders' Pocket Index.—This is the thirtieth annual number of a publication which contains a number of tables, showing the condition and standing of American and Canadian life insurance companies for five years, ending 1st January, 1903. The tables include all the details given in the elaborate annual statements found in the Reports of the New York Insurance Department, but are so grouped and arranged as to show at a glance the movement of each company's business in the last five years. The details are classified in four groups, Income, Disbursements, Insurance Account, Assets, Liabilities and Surplus. The rate of each company's reserve is given, also the names of its chief officers. The Index is published by "The Spectator Company," 95 William St., New York, the prices being 25 and 50 cents, according to binding.

Post Magazine and Insurance Monitor.—The bound volume of 1902. For the courtesy of a copy of this publication we beg to thank the proprietor. This is the 63rd volume of a journal which stands in the front rank of insurance publications.

Advance Report of Insurance Commissioner, Rhode Island.—This summary contains various tables, showing the condition of the insurance companies in Rhode Island, for 1902. The fire risks written by foreign companies, were $42,016,673; the premiums received, $349,236; the losses paid, $135,628; the marine risks, $10,496,977; the premiums, $7,111; the losses paid, $3,133. The fire risks written by companies of other States, were $85,007,496; premiums, $813,416; losses, $235,975; the marine business was very trifling. The casualty risks amounted to $20,342,073; premiums, $55,140; losses, $16,515.

Delaware Corporations, an address by Josiah Marvel, President of the Delaware Charter and Guarantee Company.—According to this theatise "a Delaware Corporation may transact any lawful business in any part of the world, and may unite any number of lawful business transactions." The State of Delaware empowers "any corporation to exercize any power which it may desire." That an American State should conceive itself authorized to grant a company the right of doing any class of business, as a corporation, "in any part of the world," is a remarkable exhibition of audacity and ignorance.

Some Features in the Law of Fire Insurance, by Wallace Nesbitt, K.C., being an address delivered before the Insurance Institute of Toronto. For a copy of this paper we are indebted to the Guardian Assurance Company. Mr. Nesbitt admits the difficulty of giving "even a birds' eye view of the various aspects of the law of fire insurance in Ontario," but he has presented a number of the leading features of fire insurance law with perspicacity and terseness rarely shown by legal practitioners. It would be well to place a copy of Mr. Nesbitt's paper in the hands of every policyholder.

Insurance Engineering, February, 1903.—The leading articles in this number are, "The preservation of steel," "Floor construction and fire-proofing in the Government Printing Office, Washington," The Evolution of the Fireproof building, "Pipe and Hydrant Service," "Some electrical fire hazards." There are a number of minor contributions of great practical interest written by experts, all of which make Insurance Engineering valuable to building engineers, architects, contractors, underwriters and property owners.

## PERSONAL.

Mr. Thomas E. Kenny, presidennt of the Royal Bank, has been in Montreal for some days.

Mr. A. M. Oxley, Toronto, special representative of Confederation Life Association, paid a visit to this city this week to arrange for his assuming extended duties in connection with this Province.

Mr. J. K. McCutcheon, superintendent of agencies Federal Life Assurance Co., was in Montreal recently. He reports the volume of business written for the company, during the first January, February and March, this year, as being very satisfactory. A manifest error occurred in noticing Mr. McCutcheons visit in last issue.

# Notes and Items.

### At Home and Abroad.

Ottawa Clearing House.—Total for week ending 26th March, 1903, clearings $1,736,053. Corresponding week last year, $1,703,022.

Summer Hotel Losses.—The total insurance paid for losses in summer hotels, in New England, for years 1898 to 1902, amounts to $677,173.

Equitable Life Assurance Society.—Policies new and taken up in Canada last year amounted to $1,902,390; the total insurance in force was $21,769,926 and the net premiums received $757,962.

Western Hotel Keepers are organizing a fine company to cover the risks of that class of property. They will have quite a good time until the inevitable happens to spoil the game. If, however, they induce hotel keepers to be more careful about fire risks the travelling public will be gratified.

No Breakfast Cure.—An association has been formed in England of persons who never take any breakfast, in the ordinary sense, as their first meal is at noon or 1 p.m. Perfect health is said to be the reward of this abstinence. The plan is easy to try, and to some, would be beneficial, but fasting to start the day seems a poor way of getting up the requisite steam for business.

Phases of the Fire Problem.—With a fire waste of some thirteen millions a year in the United Kingdom, and a further and unascertainable loss borne by uninsured or only partially insured individuals, Mr. George H. Otway did not apologize for dealing with the fire problem to the members of the Insurance and Actuarial Society of Glasgow

Mr. Otway, who spoke on "Heat telegraphy or automatic fire-signalling," explained the system with which he and Mr. May are connected, already introduced in Glasgow. The functions of the May-Otway system were three-fold—to detect the fire at a uniformly early period under all atmospheric or industrial conditions, to give the alarm by suitable gongs upon the premises, and simultaneously to the brigade by a definite and unmistakable message; and to facilitate the work of extinction by indicating the actual room alight.

His contention was that the only way to secure a lessening of the fire losses was to make sure that the brigade were called in time. There was a period in every fire when its extinction was a matter of certainty, with comparatively little damage, and it was at this stage that the May-Otway alarm went through.

The remarks of Mr. Otway were illustrated by a demonstration of the system.