INSURANCE COMPANIES' BOND INVESTMENTS.

A comparison has been made of the results to some 30 life companies of their investments in bonds and stocks respectively. Beginning with the year 1904 the bond holdings of these were, at book value: $1,030,469,000 in 1904; $1,177,739,000 in 1905; $1,283,064,000 in 1906; $1,341,646,000 in 1907, and $1,448,085,000 in 1908. These holdings constituted an average of almost half (46.4 per cent.) of the total assets of the companies, and the rate per cent. they returned was $4.28 per $100.

Covering the same period these companies had only 5 per cent. of their assets in stocks, the amount having declined in the last two years from $137,000,000 to $121,000,000. The New York Legislature added, in June, 1906, a section to the insurance law of that State, prohibiting any domestic life company from investing in or loaning on any shares of stock of any corporation other than a municipal corporation. Also it instructed all such companies to get rid, within five years, of any such shares it might hold at the passing of the law.

The man who set fire to the Castleton lockup in order to effect his escape has been sentenced as follows: housebreaking and theft from Mr. James Wilson, Burnley, six months in the Central Prison; breaking out of prison, one month; arson, three months.

The Anglo-Saxon love of motion was illustrated the other day when Frank Sullivan set fire to the yards of the Gartshore-Thomson Foundry Co., of Hamilton, just to see the firemen run. He incidentally was the cause of $2,000 worth of damage. It is posible that the foundry people take a certain amount of grim satisfaction out of the fact that Sullivan has been inprisoned for an indefinite term, on a charge of incendiarism.