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IN OUR LAST number we gave some figures from the mortality experience of one life company for January and February last, showing the increase from "la grippe" and its complications to have been equivalent to fifty-two cents on each \$1,000 on the year's mortality, as compared with the mortality of 1889. We now have before us, as presented at the recent meeting of the Actuarial Society of America, the experience of 29 companies for the first quarter of 1890 compared with the corresponding period in 1889. We find that the death loss from "la grippe," pneumonia and bronchitis was .000925 for the former quarter, and from pneumonia and bronchitis .000426 for the latter, while the total death loss was .00385 for the former and .00356 for the latter period. In other words, the increase for the quarter from all causes was 29 cents on each \$1,000 of mean assurance in force, and 49 cents from the special causes named. It will be readily seen that with the special cause eliminated, and assuming the death rate from all other causes to be the same as for the first quarter, the result for the year will be but an infinitesimal increase at most.

THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER of Wyoming is quoted by the *Coast Review* as recommending "the passage of a law giving the insurance commissioner the power to fix reasonable rates to be charged for fire insurance, and to hear complaints and regulate and adjust any abuse of rates, or abuses of any nature whatever coming to his knowledge." And yet, we do not suppose the Wyoming commissioner is a lunatic, as at first might seem likely. He is simply the victim of the

prevalent craze for the application of the paternal idea to Government. Every evil is to be remedied and every pinching shoe made easy by a legislative act. Of course the utter absurdity of constituting an insurance commissioner an autocrat to arbitrarily fix the price of insurance, and "regulate" supposed abuses "of any nature whatever," did not occur to this Western genius. The proposed law was entirely consistent with the "paternal" theory with which he had become inflated. The theory leads to a good many ridiculous propositions besides this one from Wyoming.

THE LATEST INTELLIGENCE from Philadelphia is to the effect, that the American Life Insurance Company of that city will be thrown into the hands of a receiver. Its president, Hon. John J. Macfarlane, has been of late a heavy speculator, and his recent embarrassment, made public by the press, was closely connected it is said with the failure of several small banking institutions in the vicinity of Philadelphia. Ugly rumors have been afloat, to the effect that a considerable amount of the collateral loans held by the American Life are of a shaky character, and Insurance Commissioner Forster at once commenced an examination of the company's affairs. The result is that the Attorney-General of the State has instituted *quo warranto* proceedings, requiring the company to show cause by the 19th inst. why its affairs should not be wound up. What the details of Commissioner Forster's report are we do not yet know but its nature is pretty clearly indicated by the above *quo warranto* proceedings. The admitted assets of the company on Dec. 31st last were \$2,223,561 and its liabilities \$1,641,440, leaving an apparent surplus of \$582,121. About \$722,000 of the assets consist of "collateral loans," but the securities must be a bad lot indeed if the shrinkage proves to be enough to wipe out the surplus. The company commenced business in 1850 and has been regarded as a slow-going but safe company. It has in force over \$4,000,000 of assurance under 6,293 policies. It will be a great pity if a merely technical impairment of reserve should turn the company over to the tender mercy of a receiver, for under the American system that means that nobody excepting the receiver will ever receive anything to speak of. We await further information.