

who by the contribution of premiums have become entitled to such help. As the bee gathers the particles of honey from the flowers, which suffer no appreciable loss from such contribution, and stores the collection in the hive until the time of need arrives, so the insurance companies accumulate these trifling sums, received from one and another who do not feel the loss, until disaster comes and the sufferers are relieved from the treasury where their small contributions have been preserved. And so insurance becomes an equalizer and regulator applying its stores to alleviate the sufferings of the losers, to prevent the weight of disaster from crushing its victim, and distributing the loss over such a wide field that no individual is irreparably injured.

ANNUAL CONVENTION OF INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS.

The Insurance Commissioners who met at Baltimore last week approved of the Uniform Bill for regulating fraternal societies, with some modifications. The Actuaries' Mortality Table was adopted in preference to the Fraternal Congress Table. A provision was introduced, that these associations shall file annual reports from which the net value of all their certificates in force shall be computed when, if it is found that the reserve falls below the computed value, the fraternal must either make good the deficiency or scale down its certificates to meet the reserve. Other changes are thus stated by the "Standard." The adding of a new section covering the distribution of surplus; the substitution of another in place of section 5 providing for the issuance of paid-up certificates to those members who may fall by the way; the stipulation that only persons who have been examined by a legally qualified practicing physician, shall be accepted as policyholders; that reports to the various insurance departments must be made annually under oath of officers and show condition as of December 31, each year and such other information as the commissioners may desire and the provision under the head of examination of domestic associations that "the insurance commissioner may present facts relating thereto to any court of competent jurisdiction," instead of as in the other form, to "any justice of the supreme judicial court."

A great point will be gained when the officials of those societies learn enough to recognize that the fraternal spirit and agreeable social meetings will not of themselves keep a society sound financially, however, large may be the membership. If the actuarial basis of the Order is defective there is certain to be a crash sooner or later.

The report of the Committee on Mortality Rates and Interest, E. H. Dearth, chairman, furnished information deduced from the gain and loss exhibit as follows:

It appears that forty-two of the principal legal

reserve life insurance companies transacting business in the United States experienced actual losses from mortality, during the year 1902, of \$81,829,189, while the expected mortality loss, under the tables in use by the various companies, was \$102,576,062, thus showing the percentage of actual as against expected of about 80 per cent. In 1901 the same companies incurred losses of 84 per cent. of the amount expected under the mortality tables. In the tabulation from which these figures are deduced were included the two leading industrial companies whose death rate was considerably in excess of the expected. With these companies the actual losses have been considerably below 80 per cent. of the expected during the past two years. The experience of the companies for a considerable term covering preceding years was nearly the same rate. The Connecticut Department has compiled statistics for some years which show that the death rate on an average of the whole does not exceed 80 per cent. of the amount expected, with the exception of the industrial companies. Another proof that the companies are not meeting with losses expected under the mortality tables is derived from the showing made by the companies reporting to Minnesota which issue annuity contracts. These companies expected to make annuity payments in 1902, for instance, amounting to \$3,234,033, but actually paid \$3,537,011, or 9 per cent. more than was expected.

The Report of the Committee on Mortality Rates makes a quotation from the address of President McCall, of the New York Life, before the convention in 1898, covering the experience of thirty-five companies from 1871 to 1897 inclusive, showing that the interest earned on the mean assets during the entire period averaged in excess of 5½ per cent.; percentage of surplus earned to insurance premiums received varied from 22.65 to 14.68 per cent., while the percentage of expenses and taxes to insurance premiums ranged from 19.05 to 29.13 per cent. As the gain from surrender value, which in 1902 was \$10,597,866, could be used for the purpose of maintaining the reserve the same as investment earnings, it is evident, the report concludes, that the companies are earning at least 25 per cent. more than would be required, even if the companies were all on a 4 per cent. basis. This report, on motion of Commissioner Cutting, was received by unanimous vote.

There were 29 States represented at the Insurance Commissioners' Convention.

ATLAS ASSURANCE COMPANY.

We are advised that the Agency of the Atlas Assurance Company, Limited, for Toronto and district, hitherto carried on by the firm of Kay, Banks, Love & Hamilton, has now been cancelled. On account of the changes consequent thereon the Atlas Company has arranged to open Branch Offices in Toronto, and have appointed Mr. A. Waring Giles, as manager who has hitherto acted as inspector for the company, and formerly acted in that capacity for the Lancashire Insurance Company.