account for, unless in course of cross-examinations on the witnessstand, with the pains and penalties of perjury staring them in the face. It would be ungenerous, perhaps, to dismiss this great monopoly without explaining a little more clearly the extend to which it has proved itself a puplic benefactor. It paid last year, as appears from its reports, in "death claims including dividend additions," $4,743,153, while its interest receipts amounted to $5,078,-766, and notwithstanding its interest receipts exceeded the death-claims by several hundred thousand dollars, demanded and received from policy holders the sum of $12,845,593. What did they do with it? Possibly voted another bonus.

One more pertinent inquiry is suggested by glancing at the statement of business of another well known "Old Line" company. From that statement it appears that this concern has realized from its interest receipts since June, 1860, $15,117,694.73, and paid for losses during the same period, $10,-388,232.92, yet they are collecting annually, according to their report, in premiums from their policy holders, $2,620,148. It must be borne in mind in this connection that the company makes its boast that its interest receipts more than pay its death losses and expenses. Is this surplus worked up into bonuses? In conclusion it is perhaps pertinent to ask why the people ever deemed it advisable to pay their money into institutions that never proposed to return anything beyond the simple interest upon it, and in many instances failed to do that.

In order to convince the reader of the unquestionable security of the funds deld by those huge monopolists, it is interesting to read the testimony of Henry B. Hyde, previously referred to, President of the Equitable, given before the same Committee. (See page 67 official stenographer's notes.)

Q.—How much have you had in the bank for the past six months? A.—We have variable amounts, from half a million to a million and a half.

Q.—When money is paid out by the company, what is the method of paying it out? A.—It always goes to the financial committee first, and secondly to the two officers.

Q.—Suppose you presented a check to the bank, by whom would it be signed; or, in other words, if your association was drawing a draft on the bank for $10,000, by whom would it be signed? A. By two officers.

Q. What officers? A. Any two officers; by officers I mean the president, vice-president, secretary or actuary, or chairman of the finance committee.

Q. Two of either of those could draw any amounts? A. Yes, sir; they are competent to draw money out of the bank.

Q.—Any amount you chose to draw? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—You say it requires the action of the finance committee; is there anything to indicate to the bank upon which you draw that the action has been taken, except the signature of the two officers. A.—No, sir.

Q.—Nothing whatever? No, sir.

Q.—So that if to-morrow your assets are a million and a half, and a check should be presented, signed by yourself and either of the other officers of the association, that amount will be paid upon the check? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Is there any direction to the bank, or any instructions which forbid their paying an unlimited amount upon the check of the two officers of the company? A.—No, sir.

If the gentlemen who run the "Old Line" Life Insurance Companies were not disinterested, self-forgetting mortals, always on the look-out for an opportunity to do good, without any sordid notion of making money by it (as the patient student of insurance reports must be convinced) there would perhaps be grounds for apprehending that a couple of enterprising officials might dispense with the "bonus" voting formality, check out what funds the concern has in bank and vanish to parts unknown, as did Mr. Frost of the goneup Continental. But happily there are no more Frosts in official positions, and anyhow Mr. Hyde would not be associated with any gentlemen who were not like Cœsar's wife, above suspicion. Amen.

Every close observer has become satisfied that the "Old Line" Insurance Companies are fast losing their hold upon the hearts of the people; and with the foregoing array of facts before him the reader will naturally conclude that it was high time the hearts of the people were turned from following after these strange gods.

The "Old Line" Insurance Companies, reporting to the Insurance Department, of New York, in 1882, issued 91,945 policies insuring $257,511,216. During the same year 57,872 policies insuring $159,958,024 terminated. This was an excess in terminations over the preceding year of 2,521 policies covering $12,974,374, of risks. Six companies show a decrease of $5,809,985 compared with the previous year. The foregoing abundantly proves the growing unpopularity of this kind of insurance. The endowment plan has also been weighed in the balance and found wanting, this is evidenced by the fact that at the close of last year out of 661,458 policies outstanding, 505,252 of them were life policies, and only 136,979 were endowment. But while the "Old Line" Life Insurance Companies are rapidly depreciating in the estimation of the discriminating portion of the community, another kind of corporation has arisen which appears to have been intended to benefit the party insured as well as the company making the insurance. They are known as assessment companies, and they were the result of an absolute demand on the part of society for something of the kind.

The time has been when people paid the insurance agent whatever he demanded without gainsaying very much, as people promptly and cheerfully respond when a masked gentleman on the Western frontier politely requests them to "stand and deliver," but that day has gone by, and in this practical age people begin to inquire what insurance is actually worth, just as they ask the price of flour and potatoes, and do not propose to pay fancy valuations. Sensible men reasoned that if the managers of the "Old Line" Companies could erect the most expensive buildings and make themselves millionaires by self-presented bonuses, that life insurance could be furnished at greatly reduced rates than heretofore demanded for it. This conclusion was confirmed by a recent discovery as to the business experience of one of the largest companies in the United States for the last thirty years. It was found that during that period the average amount paid for death losses to the assured was but $9.55 per thousand, while the same company has continued an average charge of $39.52 per thousand. This "Old Liner" insists in the face of uncontradictable evidence that insurance cannot be given any cheaper, but the public has ceased to believe the story.

The Hon. Eugene Pringle, Commissioner of Insnrance for Michigan, an accomplished actuary, and a gentleman who is entirely beyond the peculiar influence which the "Old Line" companies so often manage to exercise over insurance experts, expresses the opinion in his report dated August 10, 1883, that the actual cost per thousand for insuring a man at the age of forty should not exceed $9.79.

The foregoing facts are worth reading, and worthremembering.—*Western Rural.*

Whole cloves are now used to exterminate the merciless and industrious moth. It is said they are more effectual as a destroying agent then either tobacco, camphor, or cedar shavings.

Leather chair seats may be revived by rubbing them with well-beaten white of eggs. Leather bindings of books may also be cleansed by this method. White Roman bindings should be washed with a soft flannel, saturated in soapsuds.