

ACTUAL AND EXPECTED MORTALITY.

It is well known that practically all the well-established and well-managed companies are experiencing much less than the tabular mortality. The present reserve system is based upon mortality tables which indicate an expected mortality that is at least one-third more than the actual experience....Several thoughts are suggested by this condition of affairs. The first is that the companies are laying aside a great deal more money in their reserve than it is likely they will ever require for the payment of claims, and it is an interesting question how the excess can ever equitably be distributed among the policyholders whose premium payments contribute to the accumulation of these excessive and unnecessary reserves. Current mortality savings are reflected in the savings or dividends returned to holders of participating policies; but the amounts laid aside as reserves in excess of the amount really needed to insure the payment of claims present greater difficulty of distribution. What of the policyholders who have died and will die in the immediately ensuing years? Unless the system is modified, the companies will continue piling up larger and larger reserves. Why would it not be a very desirable thing for all the leading companies to exchange their experiences over a long period of years and work out a new set of tables which would represent more accurately than those now in use the actual death rate that life insurance companies must be ready to meet.—Best's Insurance News.

FIRE PROTECTION OF ASYLUMS AND HOSPITALS.

(Insurance Engineering, N. Y.)

An inquiry addressed to Insurance Engineering by a subscriber in Montreal says: "A new sanatorium for consumptives has been opened at Ste. Agathe in the Laurentian mountains, and the manager has asked me for information on the subject of fire protection. Will you kindly let me know in what numbers of Insurance Engineering I can find articles on this subject as regards standpipes and hose, the best kind of outside hosehouses and practical rules about organizing fire drills or practices for the employees. No doubt you have such subjects indexed, and any information will be appreciated."

Reply.—No special type of standpipe and hose equipment is required for such a building as our subscriber speaks of, but the best location for a standpiping would probably be near the principal stairway. Good work can be done with 1½-inch hose lines from 2½-inch standpipes when fires are promptly discovered. A standpipe is not worth much unless an adequate water supply, under pressure is connected to it. With 50 pounds' pressure at a 1-inch nozzle, 10,000 gallons of water would supply one hose line about 45 minutes. A tank would have to be elevated about 120 feet to give that pressure. Another way to obtain an adequate water supply would be with a pump of not less than 500 gallons' capacity per minute, drawing from a reservoir. If electricity is available, this pump could be driven by a motor at a minimum cost for maintenance. The reservoir should hold at least 50,000 gallons of water and be reserved for fighting fire. If hydrants are to be provided, they should be distributed around the building and the private water supply should be increased. Portable chemical extinguishers and large ones mounted on carriages are valuable for use both inside and outside of buildings. Automatic sprinklers should also be considered. The superintendent of an institution located in the mountains or in the open country must realize that every fire must be extinguished by the employees before it spreads, or the building cannot be saved. When the occupants are chiefly sick or convalescent persons, who will require assistance to reach places of safety, the equipment for fighting fires both from the inside and the outside of a building cannot be too complete. Daily

inspections should be made of every room and closet to discover neglect that may result in a fire. The specifications of the National Board of Fire Underwriters for outside hosehouses may be consulted if houses are to be built over the hydrants.

OLDEST LIFE INSURANCE POLICY IN AMERICA.

The Mutual Life of New York cites some interesting examples of policyholders who have outlived the "limit of life" and also gives particulars of a policy issued during the first year of the company's existence, and the oldest life insurance policy in force in America. The company says:

The Mutual Life is the oldest active life insurance company in America, having begun the issues of policies on the 1st of February, 1843, more than sixty-eight years ago, and practically one year in advance of the next oldest company. In its first twelve months it issued 470 policies, and it is a remarkable fact that one of these policies, written on the 24th of January, 1844, is still in force. This contract, held by George L. Newman, of Charlottesville, Va., is known to be the oldest life insurance policy in America, if not in the world. It was originally issued for \$1,500, but by reason of dividend additions made from year to year, it amounted in September, 1911, to \$5,264.

The insured in this case was 95 years of age on the 15th of last July. He is therefore within less than a year of the "limit of life" as fixed by the American Experience Table of Mortality, which assumes that no one will live beyond the age of 96. The experience of The Mutual Life, however, is more favorable than this. Of the persons insured under the 470 policies issued by the company in its first year, one, Charles H. Booth, died at the age of 101, lacking only a few months; while no less than five policy-holders so far have died at an age beyond the "limit of life." These are as follows:

Policy Number	Name	Died	Age at Death.
22	Charles H. Booth	May 29, 1904	101
1506	Robert Street	Feb. 1, 1903	97
2228	Charles Rhind	Apr. 23, 1908	98
8151	Homer Blanchard	Nov. 27, 1902	97
1512	Jesse W. Hatch	Jan. 24, 1910	98

In addition to the foregoing, John P. Daniels, of Millford, Mass., who has carried a policy since November 25, 1854, passed his 96th birthday April 29, 1911. His is not the oldest policy, although he is the oldest living policy-holder in the company.

PERSISTENCE AND PROCRASTINATION.

In a stirring address before the National Association of Life Underwriters at Chicago, A. Homer Vipond, president of the Canadian Association of Life Underwriters, related this incident which came within his experience and caused him to resolve to thereafter combat procrastination with all his power:

Some months ago I was trying to have a man take insurance and had talked to him a number of times, trying to get his application. One day he said, "I will make out the application the next time I see you." The next time I went to his place, two months had elapsed and in that time the poor fellow had contracted pneumonia and died.

I went into the place one day and his wife said to me, "I believe you have heard of the death of my husband." "Yes," I said, "I was sorry to hear of that." She said: "I am very sorry that the last time you were here you did not get my husband to give you his application. He told me after you had gone that if you had been a little more persistent he would have done so."

That struck the keynote with me. I said to myself, "I will take no chances of any other woman ever saying to me that I had been derelict in doing my duty."

—Union Mutual, Portland, Me.