

in order to enable them to do so. Rebating is the practice of discriminating in favour of one policyholder against others. As it is inequitable, and necessitates an unfair use of the common fund held for the general body of policyholders in order to benefit one who is specially favoured, rebating is utterly indefensible, and should be repressed.

THE ROYAL'S NEW HEAD OFFICE BUILDING AT LIVERPOOL.

Liverpool has been enriched by another noble building worthy of that city of commercial palaces and worthy the Royal Insurance Company by which it was erected. In one architectural feature the Royal's Head Office building affords an example that might be followed here with marked advantage to the appearance of the city. It is a common defect in street architecture to leave the sky line unbroken, so that there is a mechanical sameness in the upper line of the street. The Royal building has a handsome turret rising boldly from and to a considerable height above the main structure. At the base of this tower is the principal door-way, the imposing ornamental stone work of which extends above the next storey, so that, by unbroken gradations, the eye is carried from the street level to the summit of the dome over the turret.

The "Review," which presents a drawing of it, describes the building as follows:—"The style is classic, adapted to modern requirements. The sub-structure is of grey Aberdeen granite to a height of 30 ft. above the pavement level, the super-structure being of white Portland stone, roofed with green slate. To the Dale Street front is a gable rising 110 ft. above the pavement. The main entrance is placed in North John street, and is surmounted by a tower 150 ft. high, which forms one of the principal features of the design. At the south end is the entrance for tenants. A notable feature of the building is the general office of the company on the ground floor, which is absolutely free from obstruction of any kind throughout its full length. This has been achieved by a novel principal of steel construction. Internally, marble, wood-panelling, and faience are largely used for facing the walls in lieu of the ordinary plaster, this material being reserved for ceilings only. The exterior of the building is enriched by an imposing piece of sculpture over the main entrance, and by a frieze consisting of several large sculptured panels. A finer, or more handsome office block cannot be found anywhere, and everything possible has been done in designing the internal arrangements to facilitate the carrying on of the company's business."

The sculpture work embraces an emblematic group of Royalty, with its attributes, Kingliness, Fame, Peace and Justice. One panel represents

Invention, in which the means for saving life and property from fire dangers are shown. Another panel suggests the life department of the Royal, the figures of Wisdom, or Prudence, is depicted as comforting the orphans, counselling youth, and protecting old age from poverty. The building was formally opened on 16th June, the anniversary of the first announcement of the company being ready for business June 16, 1845. The Royal was a success at the start, and its career has ever since been upward.

FEDERATION OF INSURANCE INSTITUTES.

The 7th Annual Conference of the Federation of Insurance Institutes of Great Britain and Ireland was held at Newcastle-on-Tyne, on the 12th ult. There were present: the president, Mr. J. G. Boss, Newcastle, joint manager of the Royal Insurance Co.; past presidents—Messrs. J. Ostler, Manchester; and David L. Laidlaw, of Glasgow; Mr. T. A. Bentley, hon. treasurer; Mr. J. P. Eddison, hon. secretary to the Examiners; Mr. H. C. Andrews, hon. secretary to the Publication Committee; Mr. J. H. Chapman, hon. secretary to the Insurance Institute of Newcastle; Mr. Chas. Stevenson, secretary to the Federation; and delegates from Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dublin, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham and Leeds. A feature in the report of peculiar interest was the statement that, the Insurance Clerks' Orphanage was now firmly established. The Institute of New Zealand and of South Africa had joined the Federation. Mr. David Deuchar, manager and actuary of the Caledonian, was elected president. A dinner was given to the visitors by the Newcastle members. In proposing "The Federation," the chairman laid stress upon its educational object, which was also dwelt upon by Mr. Osler, manager of the Northern, at Manchester, as it was by other speakers. Mr. Eddison said they must not forget that the examination work was, after all, the highest function of the Federation. By success or failure in that direction the Federation must stand or fall. This year the examinations had been successful and satisfactory in every respect. He congratulated the Newcastle friends on the remarkable success achieved by their students, which, he said, reflected the highest credit on the Newcastle Institute. He hoped the head offices would extend a wider appreciation of the benefits to be derived by clerks and officials from the improved technical education. (Applause.)

Mr. Pipkin, general manager of the Atlas, and chairman of the Insurance Clerk's Orphanage, delivered an able speech, in which he made an eloquent allusion to the objects of the Orphanage. The Newcastle meetings were highly successful.

THE EQUITABLE LIFE's summer school opened on 1st inst., with 110 members.