

Regardless of the excellence of the object sought to be attained by Mr. Chamberlain, it is evident that the Workmen's Compensation Act in its present shape is deplorably disappointing to those it was intended to benefit, and a veritable Chinese puzzle to the Bench and Bar. An amendment to the Act or new legislation is absolutely necessary.

Medical Examiners "Lend me your ears."
and Ear-Marks.

—Shakspeare.

The International Congress of Medical Examiners, lately in session at Brussels, is reported to have prepared a new life examination form of such fearful and wonderful construction that it contains no less than fifty-two questions for the applicant to grapple with and answer. The medical examiner has also to report upon a further list of one hundred and thirty items. It is needless to say that the insurance journals are casting a lot of ridicule upon the "new model" form for general use. "The Post Magazine" bluntly says it "has not the slightest chance of being adopted by any Life Office seeking new business."

"What is the length of your left ear?"

This is one of the questions the medical examiners would have the future applicant for life assurance answer. We find nothing in any of our British contemporaries to guide us to a conclusion as to the desirability of possessing a long or a short left ear, and we infer from their silence that the doctors have not disclosed the purport of this mysterious question. However, the new form prepared by the International Congress is evidently not satisfactory to the life companies, and some of its critics cruelly insinuate that the entire compilation bears the ear-marks of asininity on the part of the committee responsible for such a set of questions.

But we have such respect and affection for the physician that we are unwilling to think or say aught to his disparagement. He is the only person with whom one dares talk continually of one's-self, without interruption, contradiction or censure. Perhaps the medical examiners at Brussels who are responsible for this puzzling question about the human left ear desire to ascertain if its length is in keeping with any recognized claim of the wearer to the stupidity and other qualities wrongly supposed to belong to the ass.

A prominent life manager having submitted the question to this journal for consideration, we have to appeal to Canadian medical examiners for the reason why their *confreres* at the Brussels Congress desire the applicant for insurance to answer this singular query:—"What is the length of your left ear?"

**Infantile Death-Rate
in England.**

We have not the pleasure of knowing Mr. Ranson, of Ipswich, England, but the account furnished by "The Insurance Observer" of an annual celebration known as "Mr. Ranson's supper," and at

which Mr. Ranson himself occupied the chair, would seem to indicate that, although he is a well known and deservedly popular insurance man, he is a bachelor and ignorant of the ways of womankind. Perhaps the suggestion of Mr. Ranson was a mere after-dinner pleasantry. Yet the seriousness with which the toast containing the proposal we are about to criticize was received by those present compels us to believe that the proposer believes in the feasibility of effecting a change in the method of feeding children. He wants a system of government inspection.

At the dinner in question, Mr. Ranson proposed, as a toast, "Provident Societies." In the course of his speech he referred to the high infantile death-rate in Ipswich which he ascribed to the improper feeding of children in the first period of life. Mr. Ranson then suggested, with a boldness sufficient to stagger any ordinary Canadian father of a family, that "the Public Health Committee should appoint a female inspector to advise mothers as to the feeding of their infants."

We hesitate to express amazement, surprise, pain or distress at this extraordinary proposal to interfere with the nursing mothers of England. Perhaps the bill of fare submitted to British babies for so many centuries by generations of mothers might be changed to the improvement of the infantile death-rate of Ipswich and other places. Perhaps British matrons would cheerfully adopt any suggestions of a variation in diet when suggested by an inspector of their own sex appointed by the Public Health Committee. Perhaps.

But we frankly admit that any such maternal legislation would not be well received in this country. We shudder to think of the reception awaiting Mr. Ranson and his female inspectors were they empowered by law to advise Canadian mothers how to rear their off-spring. They might incidentally deny the baby of the period the right enjoyed from time immemorial to suck its little shoe, or to lick the paint off a gaily coloured wooden monkey. But the suggestion that a female inspector appointed by the Board of Health knows more about the feeding of an infant than the child's own mother makes us wish to hear more of this funny post-prandial suggestion made at the Anchor Hotel, Norwich, far away eastward across the wintry seas. There are evidently bold and masterful men in the good counties of Norfolk and Suffolk.

INSURING OUR SOLDIERS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Policies on Lives of Montreal Married Men in Canadian Contingent.

The Citizens' Committee have taken out a policy with the London and Lancashire Life, covering each of the married men of the Canadian contingent in the Montreal company, fifteen in number, for \$1,000, to be paid to their heirs in case of death from any cause. The insurance is in force for one year, with the privilege of renewing if the committee wish to do so.