

give as clearly as possible all the information asked for, and on these the Medical Directors at the Home Office decide how they will deal with it. We have been induced to make these remarks from an article which appears in the *Post Magazine and Insurance Monitor* of the 25th November. This periodical is published in London. From it we gather that, quite recently, an International Congress of Medical Examiners was held at Brussels. It is said to have been a thoroughly representative gathering of the Medical Insurance world (European), and that one of the objects of the Congress was the simplification of the Medical Examination form or blank, as it is called on this side of the Atlantic. How well they have succeeded our readers will understand when we tell them that the new form, which this Congress has evolved, occupies six closely printed pages of foolscap. There are fifty-two questions to be answered by the proposer alone, independent of those relating purely to his family history. The Medical Examiner himself has to report on a further list of one hundred and thirty-two items. Then there are "anthropometrical" tables to be filled up and "abdominal charts" to be sketched in. It is, we think, safe to say that this new model has not the slightest chance of being adopted by any Life Insurance Company. The work such forms would necessitate could not be performed for twice the highest fee now paid by any Insurance Corporation, and, moreover, is quite unnecessary. The tendency of the age everywhere is to make smooth and easy the pathway of the medical examiner, and not to confuse him in the performance of a most important duty. "What's the length of your left ear?" is one of the questions suggested to be put in the new medical blank. What information an answer to this question is supposed to evolve passes our comprehension. It is said that the Belgian Minister of Agriculture presided over this Congress. Were it not that we know such was not the case, one might imagine that it was a veterinary assemblage. Then this question of the ears might be held to apply to those members of the animal world which are now playing so important a part in the war in South Africa.