

CHARLES DICKENS AND LIFE ASSURANCE.

It is perhaps not generally known that like many thousands of less famous people Charles Dickens once attempted to keep a Diary. It was commenced on New Year's day (1839), and under date of January 9th we find the following significant entry, recording no doubt the fulfilment of one of the good resolutions made for that year:

"Went to the Sun office to assure my life, where the Board seemed disposed to think I work too much. After an interesting interview with the Board and the Board's doctor, came back to work again."

It was not of course the London office of the Sun Life of Canada that the celebrated author thus voluntarily visited on business intent, but that of the Sun Life of England. His choice of a Company however, may in part have been determined by the name, which is certainly a good one. We trust he took out a big policy and kept it in force until his lamented death.

THE SUN

LIFE ASSURANCE CO. OF CANADA.

FROM THE INSURANCE RECORD, OF LONDON, ENG.

There can be little doubt that in the SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA we have a visitor who has come to stay. The new business record of the Company and the important step recently taken in strengthening its reserves, alike testify to an administrative talent at headquarters which would justify the belief that the establishment of the Company in this country forms part of a carefully considered scheme of development, and that belief is confirmed by the organization that has already taken place in the United Kingdom. From the cover of a neat little pamphlet

containing the report for 1895, the accounts in the form prescribed by the Act of 1870, and an account of the proceedings at the annual meeting held in Montreal this year, we gather that branch offices at seven important centres in England, Scotland and Ireland, are now working in connection with the London office, and with these contributories Mr. Eyre Hartley is doubtless able to make substantial new business returns to Montreal. Passing over the incidental features of the year, the most striking characteristic of the general trading of the Sun Life of Canada is the enormous volume of its new assurances relatively to those already existing on the books. For three successive years the annual business completed by the Company has amounted to something like a million and a half, in 1894 it just exceeded that figure, last year it was over £1,410,000—and the new premiums brought into account for this period have totalled no less than £219,292, to which the 1895 account contributes £71,906. When these figures are compared with the amounts of the renewals given above, it will be seen how largely the business and the future of the Sun Life of Canada are in the making, and it is satisfactory in these circumstances to observe that the question of the valuation-basis has been taken in hand at a time when it is comparatively easy to solve. At present the difference between the 4 per cent. reserve which the Sun Life of Canada makes, and the 4½ per cent. reserve which satisfies the Canadian Government standard is only some £56,000, but the difference will increase as the business grows in age and stature. Having thus early, however, put its business on a 4 per cent. basis the burden of maintaining this reserve falls lightly on successive years, and the Sun Life of Canada, will as time goes on, find itself in so much the better position to earn profits or to face the ultimate necessity of further reducing the valuation rate of interest. At present the rate actually