

and the annual dues raised to \$3. Instead of twenty-one, only fifteen calls were made during the first 3½ years. So early as 1885 it began to make double assessments, and in 1887 every member's rate was suddenly raised from the short-lived minimum to the severe maximum. Instead of \$1.44 per call, at age 40, \$2.20 was demanded bi-monthly. Sometimes nine in place of six assessments were made per annum. Next, in 1890, still higher rates were adopted, called "The Ten Years' Distribution Deposit Plan," and the original low rates practically abolished. At age 40 the bi-monthly rate is now \$2.70, and the annual dues \$3, and admission fee \$8 per \$1,000. Thus the institution has proved a complete failure in the matter of fulfilling the bright promise of its earlier career. Up till a recent date many of those ante-1890 members were flattering themselves that they would only have to pay their late lamented cheap rates to the end of fifteen years. Then their certificates would get such a big slice out of the "emergency" fund, or "mortuary" fund, or "expense" fund, or "mutual reserve" fund, or some other fund, as to practically free them from further ugly calls—in fact to render the certificate almost entirely self-sustaining. But the expected "bonds," yielding interest, seem to be now yielding very aggravating dissolving views. * * * The fifteen years are now about up, as to the first members, but this rating up of seven years in his age—from paying \$1.44 at first, to \$2.20, and now to age 47, and pay \$2.67—is the serpent he gets where he expected a good-sized fish.

The late president, Mr. E. B. Harper, comforts the afflicted, however, with the assurance that "while increasing the direct current payments, this re-apportionment does not increase the ultimate cost of insurance, since all death claims must be paid." * * * A very good foundation this for another rating up, a very few years hence, if those heavy losses continue to afflict the society in such an aggravating manner. It is a little peculiar that we have not heard of this unusual mortality wave visiting any of the companies which are conducted upon an admittedly sound