

Read what Mr. George D. Eldridge, a very able authority on assessment insurance, has recently written: "That the ten years next to come will prove with them (the societies) a crucial period, can hardly be gainsaid; already it is evident that the master minds in several organizations recognize that illy adjusted methods of assessments are cumbering the orders with members who are not paying for the protection they are receiving, but whose presence is making more difficult the maintenance intact of the roll of members under the gradually increasing assessment rate, burdening alike the new entrant and the member of many years standing. Fraternity and brotherhood are proving themselves unable to stay the action of the law of mortality, although they are proving themselves powerful forces to withstand the tendency towards disintegration, which, under similar circumstances, would make havoc with a business organization. As the bond of security which money constitutes may be strained to the point of breakage, which is insolvency, it is not impossible that the bond of fraternity and brotherhood may prove to have its limit of resistance, beyond which would lie disintegration." After referring to the low rate of mortality in relation to insurance, he urges that societies adopt proper methods, and he states: "When this is done the bond of fraternity or brotherhood, instead of losing its power, will be increased many fold, and the future of the orders can be made as assured as their work is beneficent."

In these opinions, Mr. Eldridge is undoubtedly correct. If the financial system is wrong, the bonds of brotherhood cannot ultimately hold the members together; and a point is reached "beyond which lies disintegration." It is equally true that a correct method is just as easy to manage as an incorrect one. The argument, that the adoption of correct rates would apparently increase the payments of members, has no place in the discussion. Insurance cannot be sold below cost without the result following of the insolvency of the society or company, that is foolhardy enough to make the attempt. Mr. Fouse, the scholarly advocate of the Lapse of Decrement Reserve System, condemns the unwarranted assertions that have been made by some advocates of the assessment system, that insurance can be furnished at the low prices they claim.

Why should societies shrink from a valuation of their insurance? If they are in a sound financial position, would not the knowledge of this be a great satisfaction to the members? If they are not in a sound financial condition, can this fact be discovered and made known too soon? The words of the Rev. C. J. Radley, who took so much interest in the Ancient Order of Foresters in Great Britain, are of special value. In addressing his fellow-members, he stated that "it should be distinctly under-