

WE HAVE SEVERAL times called attention in these columns to the "International Fraternal Alliance" of Baltimore, one of the grab-bag endowment concerns, which a good many silly people in Canada, mostly in Ontario, have paid their money into in the expectation of getting rich quick. The members of the twenty-six subordinate "assemblies" in the Dominion need not lay awake nights hereafter planning how to spend the fat endowments so glibly promised, for the Attorney-General of the State of Maryland has, by order of Governor Brown, filed a petition in the Superior Court for the vacation of the charter of the Alliance. The petition, according to the *Baltimore Underwriter*, alleges abuses, and recites at length the scandalous methods in which the concern has exceeded its powers under the charter, and the court has issued an order for the managers to show cause why the petition should not be granted. This alliance is one of the many schemes with which the notorious C. H. Unverzagt is and has been connected, and it has succeeded in roping in a large number of members since the beginning in 1889, of whom some seven thousand remain. That they will get nothing, or next to nothing, is certain.

MANY OF OUR readers will remember the frantic attempts made four and five years ago by the Rev. J. Thompson Paterson, then representing the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association in Canada, to demonstrate that the mortuary cost to members would never go much higher than at that time, and in no event exceed \$10 per \$1,000 of insurance in force. We repeatedly exposed his fallacies and showed the inevitably increasing cost year by year, even if the association should succeed in keeping up a goodly inflow of new members. This it has done to a remarkable degree, and yet, while assessments and annual dues five years ago amounted to a little over thirteen dollars for each thousand of the mean insurance in force, these items cost the members last year over seventeen dollars per thousand! Not only has the actual mortality increased steadily, being \$8.40 per \$1,000 in 1886 and \$11.11 per \$1,000 in 1891, but the management expense has largely increased. In 1886 the management expense to total income was 19.09 per cent., while in 1891 it was 25.91, increasing regularly every year but one of the five years. And this is the association to whose siege Bro. Hine has surrendered the *Monitor* at last. How are the mighty fallen!

AN INTERESTING SYNOPSIS of policy conditions among the United States life companies has been made by the *Insurance News of Philadelphia*. With regard to residence and travel, it discovers that six companies place no restrictions upon either, while two companies fix a one-year, and fifteen companies a two-year limit, six others making the limit three years, the remaining companies making it continuous. With reference to military service, five have no restrictions, four limit restrictions to two years, and one to three years. Others require notification of such service, and charge an extra premium therefor. Still others make the

restriction continuous, but agree to pay the reserve value of the policy, some without conditions and others after it has been in force three years, while a few make the policy void in case of such service. With reference to occupations other than military service, three have no restrictions, two restrict for one year, ten for two years, and three for three years. Some agree that engaging in a more hazardous occupation shall not invalidate the policy, but that the company shall be notified and an extra rate charged. As to incontestability of policies, two have a one year, seventeen a two-year, and nine a three year probation, while eight make no concessions at all. The old iron-clad conditions are still retained by some of the latter.

THE DETAILED REPORT of Insurance Superintendent Fitzgerald on the business of the fire companies in Canada for 1891 presents some interesting experiences as to the various groups of companies. For instance, in amount of risks written four Canadian companies show an increase over 1890 and three a decrease, the aggregate increase exceeding the decrease by \$798,380. The total decrease of twelve of the British companies was \$37,033,789 and the increase of the other twelve \$20,850,150, leaving a total decrease of \$16,183,639. Of the American companies seven show an increase of \$18,579,756 and one a decrease of \$500,000, the total increase being \$18,079,736. On the purely underwriting account, the results for the Canadian companies show that for each \$100 of premiums received there was paid for losses \$72.18 and for expenses \$33.42; also \$4.05 for dividends. For each \$100 in premiums received by the British companies there was paid out \$60.95 for losses and \$27.83 for expenses. Of each \$100 collected by the American companies in premiums \$58.73 went for losses and \$30.95 for expenses. Of course the expenses of the British and American companies only embrace those incurred in Canada, and make no account of their pro rata of home office expenses. The rate of premium charged per cent. of risks taken was, by Canadian companies, 1.25; British companies, 1.14; and American companies, 1.16.

ELECTRIC WIRES AND THE FIRE HAZARD.

The extensive and rapidly increasing use of electric wires for electric lighting and other purposes, and the true relation of this new element to fire underwriting, justly claims increasing attention. Of late not only the underwriters but manufacturers and users of electrical appliances have recognized the importance of the subject by candid discussions and suggestions in the columns of the electrical journals, notably in the *Electrical World*. A few days ago, as we at the time announced, a meeting was held in New York by a number of electrical inspectors connected with the insurance companies, to exchange experiences and to form more accurate ideas of the nature and extent of the fire hazard arising from electric wires, and the subject is still being pursued by these gentlemen, with what results may be seen later on. The most interesting