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Banking View of Insurance Frauds.

THE English *Banker's Magazine* devotes an article to life insurance frauds, which shows that they are perpetrated as freely as on this continent, and owing to the same condition. The *Banker's* says " the number of loop holes whereby a company can be cheated is very great." There are too many who think it no sin to rob a corporation, and juries are prone to giving verdicts against the supposed tyrannous companies, while judges even construe all the conditions of policies strictly against the company. With all this we are quite familiar on this side. The English *Magazine* considers that the American companies work more in concert with each other in efforts to restrain fraud, than do the British companies. In illustration of this it refers to the system respecting impaired lives which have been attempted to be palmed off on American life offices as worthy of adoption in the old land, as under its operation every company is advised of all such attempts, and put on its guard. Frauds, it correctly remarks, often arise from having " a weak agent who has allowed himself to be talked over by a scheming client." It is also on safe ground in stating that " companies must be sometimes defrauded without knowing it, there exist no data for estimating the extent of such frauds, and, because they are not known, no provision is made in the premiums charged by the companies against risks of the nature of frauds." We should have appreciated some suggestions from the *Banker's* as to measures advisable for protecting life assurance companies from such frauds as they are victims of " without knowing it," but we are glad for so influential a magazine to have entered its protests against the unfair treatment of the companies by juries and judges.

Weather Definitions.

THE Weather Bureau of the United States has issued definitions of tornadoes, whirlwinds, cyclones, which are likely to cause some disputes over " Tornado Insurance," unless the policies of companies doing that class of business set out clearly that by the word " tornado" is meant any violent atmospheric commotion. It seems to us that, the distinction between various classes of violent storms is mainly one of dimension, much as air movements are differentiated by speed, a slowly moving current of air being styled a " breeze," but a more rapid one a " wind." " A hurricane," is defined as, " a large stormy area, often several hundred miles in diameter, within which violent winds circulate around a centre." This is obscure, as a hurricane cannot possibly be an " area," its characteristic sphere of operation, however, is an area. A tornado, says the *Weather Review*, " is a very much small region usually less than two miles in diameter, within which even more violent winds prevail which circulate about a central axis." The same obscurity is in this definition as in that of hurricane, for a tornado cannot be a " region," big or little, the region is the place in which a tornado circulates around its axis. A whirlwind is said to be " any revolving mass of air, and includes at one extreme the hurricane and at the other extreme the dust whirl at our street corners." We object to a dust whirl at a street corner being styled a whirlwind, it grates on the sense of literary propriety in view of the magnificent imagery of the line, " rides on the whirlwind and directs the storm." A cyclone is said to be " a mass of air circulating round a centre; the lower portion near the earth has a vorticose movement in towards a centre, while the upper layers have a movement out from a centre; the line joining the upper and lower centres is the axis of the cyclone, the direction of rotation is the same in both upper and lower layers." That also is a very mixed definition, indeed it involves a physical impossibility unless centripetal and centrefugal movements have the same direction. We criticize these definitions because in disputes over tornado insurance they would be quoted as to some extent authoritative. It will be well for companies doing this class of business to have more intelligible definitions placed in their policies as to what kind of violent commotions in the air they are intended to cover.