

COLL. CAT.

Army Mutual Aid Assoc

Societies, Museums

17

PROCEEDINGS

OF A

SPECIAL MEETING

OF THE

Army Mutual Aid Association

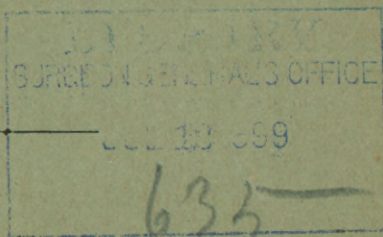
HELD AT THE WAR DEPARTMENT,

NOVEMBER 18, 1896.

ALSO THE

CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

ADOPTED AT THAT MEETING.



WASHINGTON, D. C. :
GIBSON BROS., PRINTERS AND BOOKBINDERS.
1897.

PROCEEDINGS

OF A

Special Meeting of the Army Mutual Aid Association.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, D. C., *November 18, 1896.*

Proceedings of a Special Meeting of the Army Mutual Aid Association called by the Executive Committee in Circular of October 10, 1896, held this day in the office of the Inspector-General of the Army.

The meeting was called to order at 2 p. m. by General R. C. Drum, President of the Association, in the chair.

The roll having been called, 36 members were found to be present, representing 799 proxies.

The members present were :

Captain Thomas H. Barry.	Captain Theodore Mosher.
Captain Rogers Birnie.	Lieut. Carl Reichmann.
General Samuel Breck.	General Charles G. Sawtelle.
Captain Charles H. Clark.	General George M. Sternberg.
Colonel Samuel T. Cushing.	Colonel John M. Wilson.
Captain Edward Davis.	Major George W. Adair.
Major George W. Davis.	Captain Walter Howe.
Captain David Du B. Gaillard.	Major Jacob B. Rawles.
Major E. A. Garlington.	Lieut. Thomas Cruse.
Colonel Alexander Mackenzie.	Captain William P. Atwell.
Captain Crosby P. Miller.	General Richard C. Drum.
General Michael R. Morgan.	Major William P. Huxford.
Captain James Kennington.	Captain R. G. Rutherford.
Captain Edward Lynch.	Captain James A. Snyder.
Major Daniel Madden.	Captain Thomas F. Tobey.
Captain Matthew Markland.	Captain Thomas G. Townsend.
Captain William A. Miller.	Major John G. Turnbull.
Major Benjamin F. Rittenhouse.	General Thomas M. Vincent.

LIBRARY
SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE

JUL 12 1899

635

The PRESIDENT: I will now call on Major George W. Davis to read a couple of letters he has, and also to make a few remarks and comments on them.

Major GEORGE W. DAVIS: Mr. Chairman, the letters I have are one from Colonel Elmer Otis, U. S. Army, retired, and another from Major B. F. Pope, of the Medical Department. In the first I find stated as follows:

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, *October 31, 1896.*

The Secretary and Treasurer,

Army Mutual Aid Association,

War Department, Washington, D. C.:

SIR: I have carefully read the proposed amendments to the constitution, and vote for it, notwithstanding it increases the yearly amount I have to pay. But I think there is an injustice done us old fellows who have belonged to the Association for years. It seems to me that we ought to be assessed according to the age at which we joined. Take my own case for example. I joined when the Association was very young, and took all the chances of its success, and, after years of paying my dues, I have to pay now according to the advanced age of 64 years, instead of the age in which I joined; whilst those who now join are assessed according to the age in which they may join. When I joined, the assessments were not to be increased; and I think it was a great mistake to have ever changed the constitution to its present status. Then when they have been changed they propose to change them back again to where they were originally, leaving me to pay the increased assessments.

Very respectfully,

ELMER OTIS,
Col., U. S. A., Retired.

Major Pope's letter is as follows:

ANGEL ISLAND, CALIFORNIA, *October 28, 1896.*

Major B. F. RITTENHOUSE, U. S. Army,

Secretary and Treasurer, Army Mutual Aid Association,

Washington, D. C.:

DEAR SIR: Inclosed herewith you will find my request that Major Charles Smart, Surgeon, U. S. Army, may, as my proxy, cast my vote in the *negative* on the proposition to adopt the proposed new constitution, as submitted by the Committee on Revision in their report dated April 27, 1896.

While I can readily see that it would be for my personal interest to cast an affirmative vote, still I believe that the best interests of the Association will not be met by changing from an advancing term to a level premium rate of assessment. There seems in all this discussion to have been no consideration of the fact that our Association has a peculiar and very limited field of operation, and I sincerely believe that by the adoption of the "level

premium" ratio system proposed, we will drift into the very hole which we are trying to avoid—that of a simple uniform benevolent beneficiary rate. To make myself more clear I will submit the following interrogatories:

1st. As the maximum age of admission is to be placed at 45 years, will it not, under the proposed plan, result that, as time removes all members who are now above 45 years of age, the maximum assessment and ratio will be lowered from 437 to 186? (See Exhibit "B," page 31 of report.)

2d. Should the number of eligible and desirable candidates for admission to the Association, who may be between the ages of 45 and 30 years, become, by energetic and persistent effort, gradually exhausted, will it not also result that in time, under the proposed system, the maximum ratio of assessment will be again lowered until it is reduced to 115? Carrying the hypothesis to its ultimate, may it not result that, as the average age on admission gradually and inevitably decreases, the lowest ratio—viz., 100—will be finally reached? In other words, will not the plan of level premium, whether fixed or on a sliding scale of ratios, by its own working, in time evolve itself into a uniform rate of assessment in which distinction of ages is wholly ignored or lost? With a constantly depreciating ratio and a constantly appreciating premium, would it not result that, in order to collect a single benefit of \$3,000 from a membership of 1,000 officers, an assessment of \$3 each must be levied from *all* the members, without reference to ages, because every one of them will have joined the Association at or under the age of 25? It must not be forgotten that we have not, as in the case of civil insurance associations, an unlimited field from which to recruit our membership; and should we ultimately gather in, as we hope to do, every eligible and desirable officer now in the service, our future accessions must practically be restricted to officers newly entering, whose ages will probably be under 30 years, and whose ratio is to be fixed for life at the age of entrance. Again, I ask, what is to prevent us from gradually drifting into a uniform-rate fraternal beneficiary association, the very hole from which we have tried to escape by adopting the 5-year-term advancing assessment?

It seems to me that the level premium ratio system, as proposed, is not applicable to existing conditions, and should not be adopted by us. My individual preference would be to select the *yearly term* advancing rate of Fouse (see column 9, Exhibit "A," of report), fixing the maximum ratio at 64 years.

By the Fouse one-year term, the ratio of assessment at 64 years would be to that at 25 years as 214 is to 45, or 4.75 (see Exhibit "A" of report); by the level rate table proposed, it would be for the same ages as 437 is to 100, or 4.37 (see page 23 of report). Expressed in money values, the member by the level premium plan would pay at 64 years of age for one assessment \$4.37, while by the Fouse term plan he would pay \$4.75. At the age of 25 he would pay \$1, fixed for life, while by the Fouse plan he would pay 92 cents or less, but increasing yearly with age, until he reaches 64, when a permanent rate would be attained. This I certainly conceive to be the

better of the two plans, and the one that should be adopted by the Association. I would request that, before my vote is cast, my letter may be read to the meeting, and, if possible, considered by the members present.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

B. F. POPE,

Major and Surgeon, U. S. Army.

Major Davis remarked concerning the letters just read :

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN: In respect to the letter of Colonel Otis, wherein he claims that men who have been members a long time ought to have that circumstance considered in determining a rate of assessment and to have a reduction from the theoretical equitable rates for new members of their own age—this on account of the fact that they have been contributing toward the benefits paid to the heirs of their deceased comrades for 10, 15, or more years—I would answer that that very feature of our case and the equities of the older members were considered by the Special Committee on Revision of Rates, and the pros and cons of the question are stated in the text of our report at considerable length.

In a general way it may be said that any plan of revision of assessment, which, unfortunately, is another name for reorganization, must be based upon a middle ground; there must be concessions on all sides if rates are to be made that can be maintained. It is never possible, in any reorganization, to respond to all considerations of equity; that is so with corporations, and I think that our experience justifies me in suggesting that the issues now before the Mutual Aid Association are not unlike those which confront reorganization committees.

The older members have been members since organization; they have had their risk carried all these years—the same as they have had, by payments to fire insurance companies, the risk on their dwellings or other combustible property carried by the fire underwriters. The buildings have not been destroyed, but their premiums have protected them against possibility of loss in event of their destruction, and so they are not losers. The older members of the Mutual Aid Association have paid their assessments, and in return have had their life risks carried.

Please assume that this Association now decides to go out

of business. It is well known that we have in the treasury about \$160,000. That represents the assets of this Association—the whole cash accumulation since we started—and these assets belong to the members. If we go out of business, all would then receive their equitable share of this reserve; but a computation shows that the oldest member would receive, as a dividend, not to exceed \$175 as his share of this reserve. Such study as I have been able to give to this matter leads me to the conclusion that this represents the equitable interest that the older members have, and their shares would be fully discharged by the small payment I name.

Major Pope raises two points. The first, "Will it not, under the proposed plan, result that, as time removes all members who are now above 45 years of age, the maximum assessment and ratio will be lowered from 437 to 186?" That question is evidently based upon the belief of the writer that any man who intends ever to join will do so at the youngest age possible. That belief presupposes that the experience of mankind in respect to life insurance will be reversed in the Mutual Aid. If the Major's supposition should be realized, and all should join at the age of 25, there would be, it is true, but one rate of assessment for all to pay. We all know that any such experience has never been recorded in the past. I think it is a fact that the average age of admission of members to civil insurance companies, conducted on a basis of "level rates," is about 40 years. I think the statistics show that that is about the average age of admission, and that many more take out policies between the ages of 35 and 45 than between 25 and 35. I therefore think that Major Pope's query should be answered in the negative.

The second question is in part a restatement of the first. "Will it not also result that in time, under the proposed system, the maximum ratio of assessment will be again lowered until it is reduced to 115? Carrying the hypothesis to its ultimate, may it not result that, as the average age on admission gradually and inevitably decreases, the lowest ratio—viz., 100—will be finally reached?" I answer that it would if his presumption is sound; but, as I before remarked, that seems to be an impossibility.

Major Pope asks further, "What is to prevent us from gradually drifting into a uniform-rate fraternal beneficiary associa-

tion, the very hole from which we have tried to escape by adopting the 5-year-term advancing assessment?"

When this Association began its career there were two rates of assessment proposed. There are but few of the original members now present, who were present when we met together on a winter night at the Army Medical Museum, on Tenth street, and started this Association; but, as I remember, fraternity was the predominating feature adopted in our agreement to form an Army Society, and it was attempted to carry forward the Association on that plan. It had not been in existence a year before clamoring was heard that these rates were wrong. Major Pope says, in effect, that it was understood, when he joined, there was to be no change; yet the constitution to which he subscribed contained a provision specifying how the constitution might be changed. The first change brought five rates of assessment into use, and yet it was shortly claimed that those were inequitable, and another change was made, and rates, that are substantially the same as those we are now living under, were adopted, but with a provision for the accumulation for a reserve that would by this time have built it up to at least one-third of a million dollars, if the provisions governing that reserve had not been modified.

We are now confronted by a situation that may be compared to a reorganization. If the Association is to attain its true object, we must arrive at more equitable rates. We know that opinions differ radically as to what the proper remedy should be, and those opinions may be based upon reasons that are better than the basis of the report of this committee; possibly so; but the assistance the committee has had is as good as any we could secure by payment of a reasonable fee, and the actuary, whose judgment we have in part followed, is recognized in insurance circles as among the best in his profession. His standing and character are such as to entitle his views and judgment to careful consideration, and we so far followed his advice as to adopt his table of ratios for assessment, and he has recorded his approval of the plan finally adopted by the committee and now before the Association.

The result of the study of the committee is now before you, gentlemen, and the polling of votes will indicate the will of the members. It has been a laborious task—one that we would

gladly have seen committed to others. Had the problem presented been the construction of a plan upon which to *organize* a Mutual Aid Society, the recommendation would have differed greatly from that now before you.

Major George W. Adair, Medical Department, said :

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN: The new member that joins to-day at 25, taking a ratio of 100, in thirty years will be 55 years of age and have the same ratio. To do violence to our imagination and suppose that a member 25 years of age would join at that date, taking the schedule number 100, when the annual assessments were made, he would pay the same amount as the member 55 years old, and by a system of over-estimating the death-rate the new member would put up the same amount of money as the old member in the reserve fund. The new member now objects to paying two where the old men pay six. Will the young member then pay an equal amount with the old member more cheerfully? Why should the old man at that future time be entitled to a lower rate than the old man of to-day? I have taken a period of thirty years, but believe that the harmful workings of this scheme will be so apparent in five years as to deprive the Association of the possibility of ever getting a new member.

THE PRESIDENT: If there is no further discussion I will appoint General Sawtelle, Major Garlington, and Lieutenant Carl Reichmann as tellers, to count the votes as they are cast.

The roll was then called and the vote recorded as the members answered to their names.

The committee appointed by the chair as tellers then retired and counted the votes, the result of which they announced as follows:

Total votes cast, 835; 773 yes; 62 no.

THE PRESIDENT: The new constitution has been adopted by the Association, and under the arrangement will go into operation immediately after the next assessment—the first of April next. This provision, that the Executive Committee shall consist of seven members, perhaps would be better to let go over until

the next meeting, or I would like to hear from some of the members of the Association on the subject. Under the new constitution which you have just adopted the Executive Committee shall consist of seven. The Secretary is not a member of that Executive Committee. The Executive Committee elects the President, Vice-President, and Secretary, and now as to whether we shall run along just as we are, or whether we shall elect these three new members of the committee, remains for the members to decide.

General M. R. MORGAN: Mr. President, I do not think that any harm can come to us by continuing the officers whom we have now, and I move that we do this, and allow the election of the new members to go over until the next meeting of the Association.

The PRESIDENT: All in favor will say aye; those opposed, no. The ayes have it, and the motion is carried.

The next motion in order, gentlemen, is adjournment.

The motion was made by one of the members and seconded, and the President declared the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 3.20 p. m.

B. F. RITTENHOUSE,

Secretary.

R. C. DRUM,

President.

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
ARMY MUTUAL AID ASSOCIATION.

ADOPTED AT THE SPECIAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 18, 1896.

ARTICLE I.—*Name and Object.*

SECTION 1. This Association shall be known as the Army Mutual Aid Association, and its office shall be at Washington, D. C.

SEC. 2. The object of the Association shall be to aid the families of deceased members, as hereinafter provided.

ARTICLE II.—*Officers and Executive Committee.*

SECTION 1. The affairs of the Association shall be managed by an Executive Committee, consisting of seven members, who shall be elected from and by the members of the Association in such order and number that one-third of all, as near as practicable, shall be elected annually for periods not exceeding three years. Three members shall constitute a quorum for business.

SEC. 2. The officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice-President, and Secretary, who shall also be Treasurer; all to be chosen annually by the Executive Committee. The President and Vice-President shall be chosen from the Executive Committee. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be chosen from the Association at large and shall not be a member of the said committee.

SEC. 3. In the event of the death, resignation, or inability to act of any officer of the Association or of any member of the Executive Committee, the vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of that committee until the next ensuing annual meeting.

SEC. 4. The President shall preside at all meetings of this Association and of the Executive Committee (of which he shall be *ex officio* the chairman), sign certificates of membership, and perform all duties pertaining to the office. In the absence or

disability of the President, the Vice-President shall discharge his duties.

SEC. 5. Under the direction of the Executive Committee, the Secretary and Treasurer shall receive and account for the current funds of the Association; shall have charge of the records and books of accounts; conduct all correspondence; attest certificates of membership, and issue notices of assessment. At each annual meeting he shall submit a detailed report of business, showing the receipts, disbursements, and the financial and general condition and prospects of the Association.

ARTICLE III.—*Duties and Powers of the Executive Committee.*

SECTION 1. The Executive Committee shall attend generally to the government and financial affairs of the Association; shall pass upon all applications for membership; shall prescribe forms; shall audit all claims and accounts and decide all questions that may arise in connection therewith; shall direct the Treasurer to draw his drafts for all payments; shall select a suitable depository for the funds and securities of the Association; shall authorize the procurement of necessary services, and shall have full charge and authority respecting all matters not herein specially provided for. They shall meet on the first Monday of each month and upon the call of the Chairman, and a record of their proceedings, authenticated by the signatures of the Chairman and the Secretary, shall be kept.

SEC. 2. They shall have the power to require, as the condition of continued membership, a new and thorough medical examination by a medical officer of the Army in the case of any one who they may believe shall have become addicted to habits of intemperance or immorality.

SEC. 3. They may at any time, in the name of the Association, take measures to procure incorporation for it, or petition Congress for such legislation as would, in their judgment, be beneficial to its interests.

ARTICLE IV.—*Membership.*

SECTION 1. All who are members of the Association on the date when this Constitution shall take effect shall continue to be mem-

bers thereof, and they shall be re-classified for purposes of assessment in accordance with Section 2, Article V. Any commissioned officer of the Army on the active list who, previous to his forty-fifth birthday, personally or through an agent, places in the hands of the Secretary an application to join the Association may become a member: *Provided*, That the application is made in accordance with the prescribed form; that the evidence of sound health and good habits is satisfactory to the Executive Committee, and that the dues for the remainder of the current fiscal year are paid.

SEC. 2. The status of a member of the Association shall not be affected by his leaving the service, so long as he conforms to the requirements of the Constitution.

SEC. 3. Non-delinquent members may quit the Association at any time upon tender of their resignation in writing. A member who resigns thereby renounces all claim upon the Association, and his name shall be dropped.

SEC. 4. Any person who has ceased to be a member of the Association and has tendered payment in full of all dues in default may, in the discretion of the Executive Committee, be readmitted to membership and all rights pertaining thereto, provided the provisions of Section 1 of this Article are complied with.

ARTICLE V.—*Assessments.*

SECTION 1. As soon as practicable after March 1 of each year the Executive Committee shall cause to be sent to each member an assessment notice, which shall be in the form of a printed statement, giving the project of the year's assessment and the amounts due from members of all ages. Each member's assessment is due and payable in advance, annually, on April 1, or semi-annually, April 1 and October 1, at his option. The printed statement containing the assessment notice shall be sent by mail to each member's post-office address as shown by the War Department records, or to the last address he may have furnished the Secretary.

SEC. 2. Each member shall be assessed in accordance with a graduated scale of ratios for ages, the nearest birthday at the time of reclassification, or admission if admitted after the adop-

tion of this Constitution, being ever thereafter taken as the age of a member for purposes of assessment. This scale of ratios shall remain constant during the membership and is as follows, viz:

Age 25 and under	100	Age 39.....	151	Age 53.....	256
“ 26.....	103	“ 40.....	156	“ 54.....	267
“ 27.....	106	“ 41.....	162	“ 55.....	279
“ 28.....	108	“ 42.....	167	“ 56.....	292
“ 29.....	112	“ 43.....	173	“ 57.....	306
“ 30.....	115	“ 44.....	180	“ 58.....	320
“ 31.....	118	“ 45.....	186	“ 59.....	336
“ 32.....	122	“ 46.....	193	“ 60.....	353
“ 33.....	125	“ 47.....	201	“ 61.....	372
“ 34.....	129	“ 48.....	209	“ 62.....	392
“ 35.....	133	“ 49.....	217	“ 63.....	413
“ 36.....	138	“ 50.....	226	“ 64 and over...	437
“ 37.....	142	“ 51.....	235		
“ 38.....	146	“ 52.....	245		

All members who are less than 25 years of age shall pay at the ratio for age 25, and all who are more than 64 years of age shall pay at the ratio for 64 years.

SEC. 3. Members joining the Association hereafter shall pay assessments at date of joining, computed on the following basis, viz: If the member joins in March, the whole year's assessment shall be paid; if he joins in April, eleven-twelfths of the year's assessment shall be paid; if in May, ten-twelfths, and so on, diminishing at the rate of one-twelfth of the year's assessment per month.

SEC. 4. The annual mortality shall be assumed to be 20 per thousand, or 2 per cent. of membership, and at the beginning of each fiscal year the Executive Committee shall levy an assessment upon the members for a gross sum of money that shall be required to pay death claims on 20 per thousand of the membership as it existed at the beginning of the fiscal year: *Provided*, That in the percentage computation of assumed mortality fractions equal to or greater than one-half shall be reckoned as unity, and fractions less than one-half shall be rejected: *And provided further*, That the assessments shall be levied in strict accordance with the graduated scale of ratios for ages of members as provided in Section 2 of this Article.

SEC. 5. A member who shall fail to pay any assessment within thirty (30) days after the same is due shall be fined one dollar

and again notified by mail (the evidence of which shall be the mailing to him of a registered letter at his address, as shown by the War Department records, or at the last address he may have furnished to the Secretary), and if he shall remain in arrears for sixty (60) days in all, his name shall be dropped from the list of members. If he shall die during this period of sixty (60) days and while indebted to the Association, the amount for which he was liable shall be deducted from the pecuniary benefit due on the death of such member: *Provided*, That all fines collected shall be used in defrayment of the business expenses of the Association. (Section 12, Article VII.)

SEC. 6. If a death shall occur on the same day that a member joins the Association, such member shall be assessable for the benefit thereupon due; the certificate of membership, signed by the President and Secretary, shall be evidence of the date of joining.

ARTICLE VI.—*Pecuniary Benefits.*

SECTION 1. With the least possible delay after the death of a member, the Executive Committee shall cause the net benefit to be paid, and in each case the amount so paid shall be \$3,000, which sum shall include the decedent's interest or personal credit in the emergency reserve.

SEC. 2. No benefit shall be paid upon the suicide of any member of less than one year's standing, unless the Executive Committee shall be convinced that the death was the result of insanity. In case of the suicide of a member of more than one year's standing, the fact of insanity shall be presumed in the absence of clear evidence to the contrary. The decision of the Executive Committee, entered upon the minutes of their meeting, shall be binding upon all concerned in each case.

SEC. 3. Any member may change the person or persons designated as beneficiaries by filing with the Secretary a declaration to that effect. Assignments of the benefit to others than widows, children, or other relatives of the members are deprecated and will not be recognized unless approved by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VII.—*Funds and Expenses.*

SECTION 1. The fiscal year of the Association shall extend from April 1 of one calendar year to March 31 of the next year, but the books of the Association shall be closed annually on the last day of February, and all pecuniary benefits arising from deaths occurring during the month of March of each year shall be paid from and chargeable to the assessments for the next fiscal year.

SEC. 2. The funds of the Association shall be applicable only to the payment of death claims and current expenses, and, except such limited amount as in the discretion of the Executive Committee should be deposited in bank, shall be invested in United States registered bonds. These securities may be sold only in pursuance of specific resolve of the Executive Committee in case of each sale, and this action shall be evidenced by the signature of the President or Vice-President, one other member of the Executive Committee, and the Treasurer.

SEC. 3. No money shall be paid or indebtedness incurred by any officer of the Association except upon a specific resolve of the Executive Committee, and all checks and drafts must be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by the President or Vice-President and one other member of the Executive Committee.

SEC. 4. The bonds owned by the Association shall be registered in its name and must be personally examined and counted and the bank balances and other funds verified monthly by a member of the Executive Committee, and reports of their examinations shall be filed with the records of the Association.

SEC. 5. An auditing committee of three, who are not members of the Executive Committee, shall be chosen by ballot at each annual meeting. It shall be the duty of this committee to make a thorough examination of the books, records, and accounts, and the methods of conducting the business, to count and verify the funds and securities of the Association, and to make a written report of their examination and audit, with such recommendations as they may wish to submit.

SEC. 6. No moneys shall be collected by this Association beyond amounts needed for the payment of the stated benefits, for the

necessary business expenses, and for the accumulation of an Emergency Reserve, the maximum amount of which shall be \$25,000 for each complete group of one hundred members: *Provided*, That no change in the amount of this reserve shall be made except at the beginning of a fiscal year, nor for any fluctuation of membership of less than one hundred.

SEC. 7. All moneys belonging to the Association shall be consolidated into one fund, to which shall be credited receipts from any and all sources, and to which shall be debited all disbursements and losses.

SEC. 8. All death claims shall be paid from the general account, the resources being availed of for this purpose in the order of (1) interest earnings on funds invested, as provided in Section 13, Article VII; (2) forfeitures, Section 11, Article VII; (3) the annual assessments of members, Sections 2 and 3, Article V; and (4) when the mortality exceeds 20 per thousand, from the proceeds of the sale of bonds pertaining to the Emergency Reserve, Section 6, Article VII.

SEC. 9. Whenever at the close of a year a portion of the annual assessment of any member is left unexpended, the said surplus portion shall be credited to the Emergency Reserve until the member's equitable share therein is reached; then, and so long as his share in this reserve is maintained, any remaining surplus of the annual assessment shall be credited to him on account of his yearly dues for the succeeding year: *Provided*, That each member's share in the Emergency Reserve shall be computed on the basis of the ratios for ages contained in the table, Section 2, Article V.

SEC. 10. The sum standing to the credit of a member in the Emergency Reserve shall be forfeited to the Association upon the withdrawal or dropping of the said member in his lifetime.

SEC. 11. At the beginning of each fiscal year the members shall be specially assessed *pro rata* for the entire amount expended during the year just completed in conducting the business of the Association, less the amount received on account of fines (Section 5, Article V), and the proceeds of said special assessment shall be covered into the general fund as a reimbursement.

SEC. 12. In all enumerations of the assets of the Association the bonds owned shall be stated at their current market value.

The funds composing the Emergency Reserve shall be kept constantly invested, and interest earned in excess of amount needed to make good any depreciation in the market value of the bonds shall be disposed of as provided in Section 8 of this Article.

ARTICLE VIII.—*General.*

SECTION 1. The meetings of the Association shall be held at Washington, D. C. The annual meetings shall be held on the third Tuesday in April of each year, at which time the Executive Committee shall submit a report of the transactions of the Association for the preceding fiscal year. The proceedings of these meetings, accompanied by the reports of the Treasurer, the Executive and Auditing Committees, and by a list of members, shall be promptly published for the information of the Association. Special meetings shall be called upon the written request of ten or more members.

SEC. 2. The books of the Association shall be open to the inspection of members, and those residing at a distance from Washington can have sent them by mail a statement of their individual accounts with the Association upon application to the Treasurer.

SEC. 3. At all meetings of the Association each member shall have the right to one vote, either in person or by proxy given in writing.

SEC. 4. This Constitution may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present or properly represented by proxy at any annual meeting of the Association: *Provided*, That the proposed alterations and amendments, signed by ten or more members, shall have been furnished to the Secretary in writing not less than three months prior to the meeting at which they are to be acted upon. It shall be the duty of the Secretary, under the direction of the Executive Committee, to publish such proposed alterations or amendments to the Association not less than sixty days prior to said meeting.

SEC. 5. By-laws and regulations, if not in conflict with this Constitution, may be prescribed by the Executive Committee, and shall govern in the transaction of the business of the Association.

SEC. 6. This Constitution shall take effect on April 1, 1897.

