

6. The National Pension Fund for Nurses is not "a commercial undertaking," but is under honorary management, and the income and property of the Society must be applied solely towards the promotion of its objects, and no portion of its funds can be paid directly or indirectly to the members of the pension fund, which is conducted entirely and wholly (*sic*) for the benefit of the annuitants and policyholders who can never become members.

7. Dr. STEELE did not sign the memorandum of association, and the articles

"The Pension Fund Society is an insurance company."... "It is not in the narrow sense of the term a charitable association," says *The Hospital* on March 17th, 1888, page 408. "It is incorporated under the Life Assurance Companies' Acts, 1870 to 1872," said the same journal on April 7th, 1888. Signor MICHELLI may, of course, know more about the inner working of the Pension Fund than its managers do, but we may inform him that "Insurance companies" are "commercial undertakings" in this country. The rest of his remarks are entirely outside the question. The expenses of the management are about £1,600 a year, which may be "honorary," but it is certainly large. Its premiums are from 20 to 25 per cent. higher than those of ordinary "commercial undertakings," which perhaps Signor MICHELLI considers to be proof positive that the fund is a charitable concern.

We never said that Dr. STEELE signed the memorandum. Our information con-

cerning Dr. STEELE, Miss LÜCKES, and others to whom we have referred, or may hereafter refer, in these columns, is far too accurate and particular for us to follow Signor MICHELLI'S example. For we really cannot compliment Signor MICHELLI either upon his rigid devotion to truth or his success in escaping detection. Speaking at St. Thomas's Hospital on October 10th, 1888, Mr. HENRY C. BURDETT said: "The articles of the Association even included provision for establishing a register in case the other organizations which were attempting to institute a register for Nurses should not be able to carry their scheme through to success. The Fund itself thus had the power, although it had no desire or intention unless it was compelled to exercise it, to establish a register and to take care that even that branch of the work was not neglected or allowed to fall to the ground." We quite believe that the Council of the Fund have now discovered what a false step was taken in

provide that a Register for trained certificated Nurses may be provided at the instigation of the representatives of the Nurse training schools. Not only has Mr. BURDETT not "publicly stated that these powers will be utilised if the opportunity occurred," but, on the contrary, that such a register could only be undertaken at the unanimous request of the Nurse training schools, a condition which was never likely to be fulfilled. I have ascertained that the Council of the Fund have no wish to exercise these powers under any circumstances.—I remain, your obedient servant,

P. MICHELLI,  
Honorary Secretary.

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JOHN SCOTT, Hon. Secretary

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