

5. The registry of the Try Again Division, S.D.T., was cancelled in consequence of its amalgamation with the Progress Division.

CONVERSION OF REGISTRY.

6. Three lodges, registered as separate societies, applied for conversion of registry, and were registered as branches—Nelson Lodge as a branch of the Nelson District, M.U.I.O.O.F.; Court Star of Canterbury as a branch of the Canterbury United District, A.O.F.; and Ponoke Lodge as a branch of the District Grand Lodge of the North Island of New Zealand, U.A.O.D.

REGISTRATION OF NEW RULES.

7. Registration of a complete amendment of rules—i.e., of a complete set of new rules—was made in respect of the under-mentioned societies and branches:—

M.U.I.O.O.F.—Auckland District, Hawke's Bay District, City of Norwich and Heart of Friendship Lodges (Lyttelton District), and Shamrock, Rose, and Thistle Lodge (Invercargill District).

A.O.F.—Court Star of Dunsandel (Canterbury United District) and Court Star of the South (United Otago District).

REGISTRATION OF PARTIAL AMENDMENT OF RULES.

8. Registration of a partial amendment of rules was made in respect of the under-mentioned societies and branches:—

M.U.I.O.O.F.—Unity and Britannia Lodges (Wellington District), Renwick Lodge (Marlborough District), Nelson Lodge (Nelson District), North Canterbury District, and Lyttelton District.

A.O.F.—Auckland District, Wellington District, Nelson District, and Court Pride of Courtenay (Canterbury United District).

I.O.R.—Star of Hauraki Tent (New Zealand District), and New Zealand Central District.

S.D.T.—Grand Division.

I.F.S.—Cardiff Accident Relief Fund Society.

STATISTICS FOR 1896.

9. The number of lodges* whose returns are tabulated is 392, and of central bodies 35, distributed according to orders thus:—

Society.	Central Bodies.	Lodges.	Society.	Central Bodies.	Lodges.
M.U.I.O.O.F.	16	140	U.A.O.D.	2	46
I.O.O.F.	1	23	I.O.R.	2	34
N.I.O.O.F.	1	2	S.D.T.	1	11
B.U.O.O.F.	1	1	H.A.C.B.S.	1	15
A.O.F.	9	105	P.A.F.S.A.	1	12
A.O.S.	..	1	R.E.B.S.	..	2

10. In Tables I., V., and VI., attached to this report, the respective district totals include the funds of the central bodies.

11. In the final column of Table I. is entered the average surplus or deficiency per member, as shown at the last valuation of the society.

12. In the monetary tables, except the first, shillings and pence have been omitted, there being no apparent advantage in publishing the values more accurately than as shown by the nearest pound.

13. The number of members of these lodges at the end of the year was 31,825.

14. The following balance-sheet gives their total funds (including those of the central bodies) as on the 31st December, 1896:—

Funds.	£	Assets.	£
Sick and Funeral Funds	562,862	Investments at interest	455,748
Medical and Management Funds, goods, &c. ..	48,964	Value of land and buildings	119,180
		Cash not bearing interest	24,923
		Value of goods	10,509
		Other assets	1,466
	<u>£611,826</u>		<u>£611,826</u>

15. The following summary shows the disposition of the various investments at interest, together with the respective average rates per cent. :—

Mode of Investment.	Amount.	Rate per Cent.
	£	
On deposit with the Post-Office Savings-Bank	13,899	3·5
On deposit with other banks	40,626	3·0
On mortgage of freehold property	54,376	3·5
In Government and municipal debentures	326,644	6·6
Other investments	10,521	5·6
	9,682	5·8
	<u>455,748</u>	<u>5·8</u>

* The word "lodge," when applied to all societies, is to be understood as embracing the synonymous terms "court," "tent," &c., as used in the various Orders.