STATISTICS OF MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS.

The number of members of 939 lodges* at the end of 1941 was 96,765, as compared with 101,574† at 1940. This shows a decrease of 4,809, equal to 4.73 per cent., as compared with 4.23 per cent. for 1940.

The total funds of the societies and branches as at 31st December, 1941, amounted to £5,670,757, made up as follows: Sick and Funeral Funds (inclusive of amounts transferred to special funds out of surplus), £5,204,316; Medical and Management Funds, goods, &c., £466,441. Dividing the total funds by the number of members at the end of the year it is found the average capital per member is now £58 12s. 1d.

The following statement shows the disposal of the total funds (including those of the central bodies) as at the 31st December, 1941:—

Funds.			Assets.			
Widow and Orphans' Funds		£ 4,613,139 591,177 246,340 37,685 182,416	Investments at interest Value of land and buildings Cash not bearing interest Value of goods Other assets Owing by Management Funds			£ 4,997,725 449,327 173,385 20,498 26,892 2,930
Total		£5,670,757	Total			£5,670,757

The number of members sick during 1941, was 20,414, equal to 21·3 per 100 members at risk. The sickness experienced during 1940 was 310,199 weeks, equal to 15 weeks 1 day per sick member, and 3 weeks 1 day for each member at risk.

Mortality.

The number of members who died during 1941 was 1,188, equal to 11.91 per 1,000 members at risk. The number of wives of members who died was 396.

Sick and Funeral Funds.

The contributions and entrance fees paid to Sick and Funeral Funds in 1941 amounted to £176,374. Divided by the mean number of members, the average for 1941 was £1 15s. 7d., as against £1 15s. 10d. for 1940.

The interest and rent received by the lodges and central bodies amounted to £199,639 in 1941, equal to £2 0s. 3d. per member, as against £1 15s. 6d. for 1940.

The amount of sickness benefit paid was £175,250 in 1941, equal to £8 11s. 8d. per member sick, and £1 15s. 4d. per member, as against £7 17s. 7d. and £1 14s. 11d. respectively for 1940. Viewing the amount paid in relation to the weeks of sickness, the average benefit per week is found to be 11s. 4d. in 1941, as against 11s. 9d. for 1940.

The funeral benefit paid amounted to £56,076 in 1941, equal to 11s. 4d. per member, as compared with 9s. 11d. for 1940.

The total worth of the Sick and Funeral Funds at the beginning of 1941 was £4,470,909, and at the end of the year £4,613,139.

$Investment\ of\ Funds.$

The net income from investments credited to the Sick and Funeral Funds for 1941 amounted to £199,639, the average rate being £4 9s. 11d. per cent., as against £4 7s. 4d. in 1940.

PART II.—TRADE-UNIONS.

One new trade-union was registered during the year—viz., the Napier Fishermen's and Fish-shed Employees' Union.

The registration of one trade-union was cancelled during the year—viz., The Wellington Stock and Station Agents' Clerical Employees' Union.

There were six unions on the register at the end of the year.

† Not including 2,872 members of three societies transferred to "isolated" friendly societies.

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (607 copies), £3.

^{*} 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.