

The increase in membership during 1910 was 3·29 per cent., as compared with 2·27 per cent. for 1909.

The total funds of the societies and branches as on the 31st December, 1910, amounted to £1,367,282 ls. 1d., made up as follows : Sick and Funeral Funds (inclusive of amounts transferred to special funds out of surplus), £1,263,819 10s. 1d. ; Medical and Management Funds, goods, &c., £103,462 11s. 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 £20 2s. 1d.

Taking the several years 1901–1910, the number of lodges whose returns were tabulated, the number of members, total funds, and average capital per member at the end of each were as under :—

Year.	Number of Lodges tabulated.	Number of Members.	Total Funds.	Average Capital.
			£	£ s. d.
1901	445	41,236	804,753	19 10 4
1902	462	43,408	846,315	19 9 11
1903	465	45,255	883,751	19 10 7
1904	479	47,302	936,388	19 15 11
1905	501	51,103	996,224	19 9 11
1906	500	53,759	1,057,821	19 13 6
1907	516	56,817	1,118,217	19 13 7
1908	505	58,517	1,123,886	19 4 1
1909	567	64,428	1,266,297	19 13 1
1910	609	68,006	1,367,282	20 2 1

The following statement shows the disposal of the total funds (including those of the central bodies) as on the 31st December, 1910 :—

Funds.	Assets.
Sick and Funeral Funds	Investments at interest
Surplus Appropriation Funds, &c.	Value of land and buildings
Management Funds, goods, &c.	Cash not bearing interest.. .. .
Widow and Orphans' Funds	Value of goods
Distress, Benevolent Funds, &c.	Other assets
	Owing by Management Fund
Total	Total
£1,367,282	£1,367,282

The next table shows the number of members of friendly societies, the amount of their accumulated capital, and the average capital per member, in each of the Australian States and in the Dominion of New Zealand, according to the latest received statistics, arranged in order of membership :—

State or Dominion.	Date of Return.	Number of Lodges.	Number of Members.	Amount of Funds.	Capital per Member.
				£	£ s. d.
Victoria	31st December, 1909	1,441	136,340	2,012,417	14 15 3
New South Wales	1908	1,414	125,063	1,272,989	10 3 7
New Zealand	1909	567	64,428	1,266,297	19 13 1
South Australia	1906	506	52,165	743,795	14 5 2
Queensland	1909	464	39,871	503,812	12 12 9
Tasmania.. .. .	1908	179	19,571	170,483	8 14 3
Western Australia	1909	260	16,044	147,186	9 3 6

SICKNESS.

The number of members sick during 1910 was 11,850, equal to 18·67 per 100 members at risk. The sickness experienced during 1910 was 97,534 weeks 2 days, equal to 8 weeks 1 day per sick member, and 1 week 3 days for each member at risk.

Owing in great measure to differences in the proportion of members at the several ages, the averages in the several districts differ considerably, also in the several societies or orders. The figures for the five large orders for 1910 are found to be as follows :—

Order.	Percentage Sick.	Sickness per Member.		Ratio (per Cent.) to Total Sickness.		
		Sick.	At Risk.	First 6 Months.	Second 6 Months.	After 12 Months.
		Weeks.	Weeks.			
M.U.I.O.O.F.	18·77	9·63	1·81	49	8	43
I.O.O.F.	16·06	6·03	0·97	73	8	19
A.O.F.	19·73	8·68	1·71	55	8	37
U.A.O.D.	18·50	5·96	1·10	73	9	18
I.O.R.	16·72	8·04	1·34	65	9	26
All societies	18·67	8·23	1·54	56	8	36