

NEW SOUTH WALES SUBVENTION ACT.

I append hereto a summary of the transactions of this scheme taken from the Registrar's report for last year :—

Year.	Applicant Societies.	Continuous Sickness.		Sickness : Aged Members.		Contributions: Aged Members and Widows.				Total Amount of Claims.
		Claimant Members.	Amount of Claims.	Claimant Members.	Amount of Claims.	Medical Attendance and Medicine.		Funeral.		
						Claimants.	Amount of Claims.	Claimants.	Amount of Claims.	
1909	..	No. 18	£ 285	No. 701	£ 2,763	No. 2,432	£ 1,348	No. ..	£ 822	£ 5,858
1910	..	28	457	1,188	7,072	3,608	3,402	..	1,871	14,787
1911	..	30	576	1,417	8,430	3,194	4,033	3,400	2,058	17,360

In commenting on these figures the Registrar states : " The claims of the whole period amounted to over £38,000. The amount paid in 1909 was comparatively small, as the majority of applicant societies did not register under the Act until the middle of the year. During 1910 there were ten more applicant societies, and the claims practically covered the whole of the year, consequently there was a large increase in the amount paid. In 1911 there was a still further increase, and it is probable that the claims for 1912 will reach £20,000."

The question of membership and secessions is one that has an intimate relation to subvention, and it is reasonable to look in the societies' returns for any indication that will indicate the effect of subventions in promoting national thrift.

The New South Wales Registrar's report contains the following tables dealing with these matters—

	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
Increase in membership	.. 10,307	6,312	9,832	16,313	15,407
Increase, per cent. ..	.. 9.7	5.4	8.0	12.3	10.3
Initiations, per cent. ..	.. 19.8	15.7	18.7	22.0	20.8
Secessions, per cent. ..	.. 8.9	9.0	9.7	8.9	9.5

The figures show that the membership has considerably increased since 1909 (the date when subvention commenced), though probably other causes have helped to bring this about. Apart from this, the financial position of the societies has been greatly improved, as disclosed in their recent valuations.

OPERATIONS OF NEW ZEALAND SOCIETIES.

REGISTRATIONS.

There were registered during the past year 22 new societies and branches, distributed among the various orders as follows : M.U.I.O.O.F., 8 lodges ; I.O.O.F., 5 lodges ; A.O.F., 4 courts ; I.O.R., 2 tents ; isolated friendly societies, 3.

The following registrations were cancelled :—

By dissolution : U.A.O.D.—Eastbourne Lodge (Grand Lodge of North Island) ; Sydenham and Addington Working-men's Club and Mutual School of Arts.

By request : M.U.I.O.O.F.—Cheviot Lodge (Ashley district) ; A.O.F.—Court Ruapehu (Wellington District).

The following amalgamation was registered : A.O.F.—Court Tamaki with Court Makakahi (Wellington District).

The following change of name was registered : A.O.F.—Court Chisman to Court Maid Marion (Auckland District).

All Nations Lodge, U.A.O.D., was converted to a branch of the Grand Lodge of Otago and Southland, U.A.O.D.

The position of the orders in respect of registration is shown by the following summary as at the beginning and the end of 1912 :—

Name of Order.	Registrations at 1st January, 1912.	Established.	Closed.	Registrations at 31st De- cember, 1912.
Manchester Unity Independent Order of Odd Fellows	216	8	1	223
Independent Order of Odd Fellows	80	5	..	85
National Independent Order of Odd Fellows	3	..	..	3
British United Order of Odd Fellows	1	..	..	1
Ancient Order of Foresters	146	4	2	148
Ancient Order of Shepherds	2	..	..	2
United Ancient Order of Druids	140	..	1	139
Independent Order of Rechabites	66	2	..	68
Sons and Daughters of Temperance	11	..	..	11
Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society	51	..	..	51
Protestant Alliance Friendly Society of Australasia	12	..	..	12
Railway Employees' Benefit Society	1	..	..	1
Isolated friendly societies	21	3	..	24
Working-men's clubs	17	..	1	16
Independent Order of Good Templars	55	..	..	55
Specially authorized societies	18	..	..	18
Totals	840	22	5	857