

GENERAL STATISTICS.

MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS.

The following table shows the increased membership in 664 lodges* of the Dominion, which furnished returns for 1912 :—

Number of members, 1st January	71,665
Number admitted by—	
Initiation, &c.	6,926
Clearance	740
	<u>7,666</u>
	79,331
Number who died	471
Number left by—	
Clearance	829
Arrears, &c.	4,788
	<u>6,088</u>
Number of members at 31st December	73,243

The increase in membership during 1912 was 2·20 per cent., as compared with 3·67 per cent. for 1911.

The total funds of the societies and branches as on the 31st December, 1912, amounted to £1,553,339 8s. 3d., made up as follows : Sick and Funeral Funds (inclusive of amounts transferred to special funds out of surplus), £1,436,489 9s. 7d.; Medical and Management Funds, goods, &c., £116,849 18s. 8d. 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 £21 4s. 2d.

Taking the several years 1903–1912, 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.
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
1911	658	71,771	1,441,353	20 1 8
1912	664	73,243	1,553,339	21 4 2

The following statement shows the disposal of the total funds (including those of the central bodies) as on the 31st December, 1912 :—

Funds.	Assets.
	£
Sick and Funeral Funds	1,383,954
Surplus Appropriation Funds, &c.	52,535
Management Funds, goods, &c.	78,481
Widow and Orphans' Funds	12,563
Distress, Benevolent Funds, &c.	25,806
Total	£1,553,339
	£
Investments at interest	1,296,556
Value of land and buildings	173,642
Cash not bearing interest	56,096
Value of goods	13,996
Other assets	11,908
Owing by Management Fund	1,141
Total	£1,553,339

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.
New South Wales	31st December, 1911	1,793	167,108	1,525,909	9 2 8
Victoria	" 1911	1,498	148,603	2,246,396	15 2 4
New Zealand	" 1911	658	71,771	1,441,353	20 1 8
South Australia	" 1909	514	58,292	863,998	14 16 5
Queensland	" 1911	507	45,190	578,355	12 16 0
Tasmania	" 1911	180	21,708	207,290	9 11 0
Western Australia	" 1911	269	17,637	181,950	10 6 4

* 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.