

Taking the several years 1908–1917, the number of lodges whose returns were tabulated, the number of members, total funds, and average capital per member at the end of each year were as under : —

Year.	Number of Lodges tabulated.	Number of Members.	Total Funds.	Average Capital.
			£	£ s. d.
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
1913	681	73,691	1,643,177	22 6 0
1914	717	74,074	1,744,456	23 11 0
1915	728	73,027	1,852,255	25 7 4
1916	727	70,360	1,954,940	27 15 8
1917	730	68,771	2,052,753	29 17 0

These sums are, of course, held against the societies' liabilities under their sickness and funeral insurances, and the actuarial reports issued from time to time indicate how far they are sufficient or otherwise.

The above figures include the latest statistics received from lodges.

The following statement shows the disposal of the total funds (including those of the central bodies) as on 31st December, 1917 :—

Funds.			Assets.		
		£			£
Sick and Funeral Funds	1,829,531		Investments at interest	1,731,365	
Surplus Appropriation Funds, &c. .. .	68,598		Value of land and buildings	205,981	
Management Funds, goods, &c. .. .	102,349		Cash not bearing interest	68,746	
Widow and Orphans' Funds	16,090		Value of goods	13,779	
Distress, Benevolent Funds, &c. .. .	36,185		Other assets	29,450	
			Owing by Management Fund	3,432	
Total	£2,052,753		Total	£2,052,753	

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, 1916	1,862	180,092	1,989,576	11 0 11
Victoria	1916	1,522	157,889	2,912,178	18 8 11
New Zealand	1916	727	70,360	1,954,940	27 15 8
South Australia	1916	591	65,540	1,278,109	19 10 0
Queensland	1916	558	51,130	849,194	16 12 2
Tasmania	1916	196	22,464	248,430	11 1 2
Western Australia	1915	291	19,339	251,741	13 0 4

Sickness.

The number of members sick during 1917 was 9,950, equal to 14·34 per 100 members at risk. The sickness experienced during 1917 was 118,216 weeks, equal to 11 weeks 5 days per sick member, and 1 week 4 days for each member at risk.

Mortality.

The following statement of average mortality experienced during the years 1913–17 is given herewith, but it takes no account of age incidence :—

Year.	Members.		Wives.	
	Number who died.	Number per 1,000 Members at Risk.	Number who died.	Number per 1,000 Members at Risk.
1913	523	7·38	158	2·23
1914	506	7·02	238	3·30
1915	767	10·63	240	3·33
1916	977	13·08	232	3·26
1917	1,287	18·55	260	3·75

The striking rise in the average death rates is one indication of the effects of the war on societies.