

Sick and Funeral Funds.

The contributions and entrance fees paid to Sick and Funeral Funds in 1917 amounted to £117,999. Divided by the mean number of members the average was £1 13s. 10d., as compared with £1 10s. 4d. in 1916.

The interest and rent received by the lodges and central bodies amounted to £86,147 in 1917, equal to £1 4s. 9d. per member, as against £1 2s. 11d. for 1916.

The amount of sickness benefit paid was £76,633 in 1917, equal to £7 14s. per member sick, and £1 2s. per member, as against £6 18s. 3d. and £1 1s. 1d. respectively for 1916. Viewing the amount paid in relation to the weeks of sickness, the average benefit per week is found to be 12s. 11d. in 1917, as compared with 13s. in 1916.

The funeral benefit paid amounted to £47,907 in 1917, equal to 13s. 9d. per member, as compared with 7s. 6d. for 1916.

The total worth of the Sick and Funeral Funds of 730 lodges at the beginning of 1917 was £1,742,212, and at the end of the year £1,829,531. The balance of gain for the year was £87,319, or £1 5s. 1d. per member in 1917, as compared with £85,614 or £1 3s. 11d. in 1916.

Investment of Funds.

The net income from investments credited to the Sick and Funeral Funds for 1917 amounted to £86,147, the average rate being £4 18s. 10d. per cent., as against £5 in 1916.

TABLE SHOWING THE TOTAL WORTH OF SICK AND FUNERAL FUNDS OF 730 LODGES AS ON 1ST JANUARY, 1917, AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1917, INCLUSIVE OF ACCUMULATIONS HELD BY CENTRAL BODIES, ALSO AMOUNT AND AVERAGE RATE OF INTEREST EARNED.

Name of Society.	Total Worth of Sick and Funeral Fund as on		Amount of Interest.	Average Rate per Cent.
	January 1, 1917.	December 31, 1917.		
M.U.I.O.O.F.	£ 735,791	£ 764,673	£ 36,148	4·94
I.O.O.F.	111,938	118,700	5,286	4·69
N.I.O.O.F.	5,228	5,303	267	5·20
B.U.O.O.F.	3,489	3,719	193	5·50
A.O.F.	421,719	434,453	20,465	4·90
A.O.S.	1,200	1,241	62	5·21
U.A.O.D.	268,332	298,771	14,080	5·09
I.O.R.	84,107	88,756	4,621	5·49
S.D.T.	22,349	22,705	1,166	5·31
H.A.C.B.S.	35,361	36,930	1,584	4·48
P.A.F.S.A.	24,553	25,660	1,299	5·31
Other societies	28,145	28,620	976	3·50
Totals	1,742,212	1,829,531	86,147	4·94

TRADE-UNIONS.

One trade-union was registered during the year—viz., The Federated Agricultural and Pastoral Workers' Union of New Zealand, Wellington.

The following registrations were cancelled: By request—The Patca Watersiders' and General Labourers' Union; The Otago Artificers' Trade Union.

There were 30 unions on the register at the end of the year.

The following change of name was registered: "New Zealand Locomotive Engine-drivers', Firemen, and Cleaners' Association" to "New Zealand Locomotive Engineers', Firemen, and Cleaners' Association."

INCORPORATED SOCIETIES ACT.

During 1917 there were 56 societies, clubs, or associations incorporated under this Act, and amendments of rules of 40 societies were accepted. Twelve societies were dissolved. On the 31st December, 1917, there were 1,095 incorporated bodies on the register. A classification of these societies gives: 434 sports clubs; 299 automobile, social, and musical clubs; 187 professional, commercial, industrial, &c.; 84 public hall societies; and 91 miscellaneous.

EXPLANATORY NOTE OF TERMS USED IN REPORT.

A.O.F. . . . .	.. .. .	Ancient Order of Foresters.
A.O.S. . . . .	.. .. .	Ancient Order of Shepherds.
B.U.O.O.F. . . . .	.. .. .	British United Order of Odd Fellows.
H.A.C.B.S. . . . .	.. .. .	Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society.
I.F.S. . . . .	.. .. .	Isolated friendly society.
I.O.G.T. . . . .	.. .. .	Independent Order of Good Templars.
I.O.O.F. . . . .	.. .. .	Independent Order of Odd Fellows.
I.O.R. . . . .	.. .. .	Independent Order of Rechabites.
M.U.I.O.O.F. . . . .	.. .. .	Manchester Unity Independent Order of Odd Fellows.
N.I.O.O.F. . . . .	.. .. .	National Independent Order of Odd Fellows.
P.A.F.S.A. . . . .	.. .. .	Protestant Alliance Friendly Society of Australasia.
S.A.S. . . . .	.. .. .	Specially authorized society.
S.D.T. . . . .	.. .. .	Sons and Daughters of Temperance.
U.A.O.D. . . . .	.. .. .	United Ancient Order of Druids.
W.M.C. . . . .	.. .. .	Working-men's Club.