The Balance-sheet.—On the 31st December, 1918, the total assets of the Department amounted to £5,672,981, and were invested as shown in the following statement, which also gives the distribution of the assets at the end of the previous year for purposes of comparison:—

At 31st December, 1917.		Class of Investment.	At 31st December, 1918.	
Amount.	Percentage of Total Assets.		Amount.	Percentage of Total Assets.
£			£	
3,141,294	56·1 per cent.	Mortgages on freehold property ...	3,038,552	53·6 per cent.
780,976	13·9 „	Loans on policies	738,018	13·0 „
1,055,900	18·9 „	Government securities	1,250,900	22·0 „
209,277	3·7 „	Local bodies' debentures	211,711	3·7 „
134,898	2·4 „	Landed and house property	134,864	2·4 „
130,064	2·3 „	Miscellaneous assets	128,593	2·3 „
150,462	2·7 „	Cash in hand and on current account ...	170,343	3·0 „
5,602,871	100·0 per cent.	Total	5,672,981	100·0 per cent.

During the year the Life Branch's subscriptions to war loans were increased by £195,000, the last instalment (£50,000) of its 1917 subscription having been paid over, together with a further amount of £145,000. In addition to completing this 1918 subscription the Branch has already this year taken up a further sum of £240,000 in War Loan stock. The total amount taken up by the Branch in War Loan stock to date is £785,000, in addition to £40,000 taken up in debentures under the Finance Act, 1915.

The rate of interest realized on the mean funds, after deduction of land and income tax from interest, was £4 13s. 8d.

The Staff.—As the war has now ended, I should like to place on record the fact that fifty-eight of the Department's officers joined the Expeditionary Forces, of whom four were killed in action and twenty-three were wounded.

J. H. Richardson,
Government Insurance Commissioner.

Revenue Account of the Government Life Insurance Department for the Year ended 31st December, 1918.

		£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Amount of Funds at 1st January, 1918		5,199,320 1 0	Death claims under policies, Assurance, including bonus additions		337,767 3 0
Renewal premiums — Assurance, Annuity, and Endowment		365,724 6 7	Endowment Assurances matured, including bonus additions		173,800 5 0
New premiums (including instalments of first year's premiums falling due in the year)		33,316 1 11	Endowments matured		3,398 10 0
Single premiums—Assurance and Endowment		631 15 9	Premiums returned on endowments ..		185 6 9
Consideration for Annuities.. ..		11,406 6 2	Bonuses surrendered for cash ..		9,936 13 7
Interest ..	£273,474 7 3		Annuities		19,147 5 6
Less land and income tax ..	30,237 5 0		Surrenders		15,405 2 8
		243,237 2 3	Loans released by surrender		31,122 5 2
			Commission, new* ..	£22,766 4 0	
			„ renewal	2,594 8 7	
					25,360 12 7
			Expenses of management—		
			Salaries—		
			Head Office ..	£16,191 3 0	
			Branch offices and agents	7,741 15 10	
			Extra clerical assistance	3,969 12 1	
			Medical fees and expenses	5,219 2 6	
			Travelling-expenses ..	287 18 8	
			Advertising	464 1 2	
			Printing and stationery	2,251 10 11	
			Rent	2,911 6 1	
			Postage and telegrams	2,202 9 7	
			Exchange	44 18 11	
			General expenses ..	2,267 4 2	
			Triennial expenses ..	2,216 7 1	
					45,767 10 0
			Amount of funds, 31st December, 1918		5,191,744 19 5
		£5,853,635 13 8			£5,853,635 13 8

*Including Agents' allowances.