

Taking the several years 1910-1919, 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.
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	1,852,355	25 7 4
1916	..	..	..	727	70,360	1,954,940	27 15 8
1917	..	..	..	730	68,771	2,052,753	29 17 0
1918	..	..	..	731	67,527	2,100,443	31 2 1
1919	..	..	..	735	70,598	2,184,653	30 18 11

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, 1919 :—

Funds.				Assets.			
Sick and Funeral Funds ..	..	..	£ 1,923,347	Investments at interest ..	..	..	£ 1,845,352
Surplus Appropriation Funds, &c. ..	..	..	95,468	Value of land and buildings ..	..	..	196,557
Management Funds, goods, &c. ..	..	..	107,999	Cash not bearing interest..	..	..	94,844
Widow and Orphans' Funds ..	..	..	17,775	Value of goods ..	..	..	12,989
Distress, Benevolent Funds, &c. ..	..	..	40,064	Other assets ..	..	..	31,581
				Owing by Management Fund ..	..	..	3,330
Total ..	..	..	£2,184,653	Total ..	..	..	£2,184,653

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, 1917	1,884	178,857	2,113,754	11 16 4
Victoria ..	..	..	..	" 1918	1,496	149,558	3,073,083	20 10 11
New Zealand ..	..	..	..	" 1918	731	67,527	2,100,443	31 2 1
South Australia ..	..	..	..	" 1918	509	67,047	1,377,149	20 10 10
Queensland ..	..	..	..	" 1918	478	53,194	946,531	17 15 11
Tasmania ..	..	..	..	" 1918	189	21,996	262,039	11 18 3
Western Australia ..	..	..	..	" 1918	257	17,786	279,025	15 18 9

Sickness.

The number of members sick during 1919 was 13,611, equal to 20·45 per 100 members at risk. The sickness experienced during 1919 was 145,652 weeks, equal to 10 weeks 4 days per sick member, and 2 weeks 1 day for each member at risk.

Mortality.

The following statement of average mortality experienced during the years 1915-19 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.
1915 ..	..	..	..	767	10·63	240	3·33
1916 ..	..	..	..	977	13·08	232	3·26
1917 ..	..	..	..	1,287	18·55	260	3·75
1918 ..	..	..	..	1,821	26·85	457	6·74
1919 ..	..	..	..	762	11·45	282	4·24

It will be observed that the high death-rate of the war period shows the expected fall towards pre-war rates.

Sick and Funeral Funds.

The contributions and entrance fees paid to Sick and Funeral Funds in 1919 amounted to £120,338. This item in 1913 totalled £111,475, and fell in 1916 to £108,661. The increased revenue now shown confirms in substantial form the figures relating to membership already referred to. Divided by the mean number of members the average for 1919 was £1 14s. 10d., as compared with £1 14s. 5d. in 1918.