

ANNUAL RETURNS OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, ETC.

The Friendly Societies Act requires these returns to reach me on or before the 31st March in each year. The number outstanding at that date in the respective societies was as follows:—

Annual Returns outstanding at 31st March, 1926.

Name of Society.	Central Bodies.	Branches.
M.U.I.O.O.F.	2	4
I.O.O.F.	..	36
A.O.F.	2	11
U.A.O.D.	..	5
I.O.R.	..	5
H.A.C.B.S.	1	21
G.U.O.O.F.	1	3
I.F.S., &c.	..	26
	6	111
	117	

STATISTICS OF MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS.

The following table shows the membership of 817 lodges* of the Dominion for the year 1925:—

Number of members, 1st January	87,433
Number admitted by—	
Initiation, &c.	9,330
Clearance	1,142
	10,472
	97,905
Number who died	648
Number who left by—	
Clearance	1,178
Arrears, &c.	4,726
	6,552
Number of members at 31st December	91,353

The above figures show an increase in membership equal to 4.48 per cent., as compared with 3.81 per cent. for 1924.

The total funds of the societies and branches as on the 31st December, 1925, amounted to £3,136,237, made up as follows: Sick and Funeral Funds (inclusive of amounts transferred to special funds out of surplus), £2,915,141; Medical and Management Funds, goods, &c., £221,096. 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 £34 6s. 7d.

Taking the several years 1916–1925, 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.
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
1920	732	74,210	2,321,176	31 5 7
1921	731	77,814	2,445,843	31 8 8
1922	746	80,777	2,593,692	32 2 2
1923	774	84,228	2,747,952	32 12 6
1924	782	87,433	2,955,340	33 16 0
1925	817	91,353	3,136,237	34 6 7

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 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.