

The following statement shows the disposal of the total funds (including those of the central bodies) as on 31st December, 1927 :—

Funds.				Assets.			
£				£			
Sick and Funeral Funds	..	..	3,036,670	Investments at interest	..	..	3,023,872
Surplus Appropriation Funds, &c. ..	..	..	240,809	Value of land and buildings	..	..	358,978
Management Funds, goods, &c. ..	..	..	157,145	Cash not bearing interest.. ..	..	..	97,749
Widow and Orphans' Funds	..	..	25,394	Value of goods	..	..	22,359
Distress, Benevolent Funds, &c. ..	..	..	66,699	Other assets	..	..	19,327
				Owing by Management Funds	..	..	4,432
Total	..	..	£3,526,717	Total	..	..	£3,526,717

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	30th June, 1927 ..	2,396	240,502	3,480,767	14 9 6
Victoria	" ..	1,473	160,411	4,513,972	28 2 10
New Zealand	31st Dec., " ..	864	98,251	3,526,717	35 17 11
South Australia	" 1926 ..	673	77,791	2,037,800	26 3 11
Queensland	30th June " ..	561	65,204	1,405,300	21 11 0
Tasmania	31st Dec., " ..	183	24,614	359,756	14 12 4
Western Australia	30th June, 1927 ..	353	23,022	403,224	17 10 4

Sickness.

The number of members sick during 1927 was 18,691, equal to 21·1 per 100 members at risk. The sickness experienced during 1927 was 189,147 weeks, equal to 10 weeks 1 day per sick member, and 2 weeks 1 day for each member at risk.

Mortality.

A statement of the average mortality experienced during the years 1923-27 is given below, 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.
1923	684	8·29	328	3·98
1924	674	8·09	295	3·54
1925	648	7·22	328	3·66
1926	748	8·02	323	3·46
1927	776	7·98	320	3·29

Sick and Funeral Funds.

The contributions and entrance fees paid to Sick and Funeral Funds in 1927 amounted to £178,305. Divided by the mean number of members the average for 1927 was £1 16s. 10d., as compared with £1 17s. 1d. in 1926.

The interest and rent received by the lodges and central bodies amounted to £168,447 in 1927, equal to £1 14s. 10d. per member, as against £1 14s. 3d. for 1926.

The amount of sickness benefit paid was £124,892 in 1927, equal to £6 13s. 8d. per member sick, and £1 5s. 10d. per member, as against £6 11s. 4d. and £1 5s. 2d. respectively for 1926. Viewing the amount paid in relation to the weeks of sickness, the average benefit per week is found to be 13s. 3d. in 1927, being the same as for 1926.

The funeral benefit paid amounted to £33,305 in 1927, equal to 6s. 11d. per member, as compared with 7s. 7d. for 1926.

The total worth of the Sick and Funeral Funds of 864 lodges at the beginning of 1927 was £2,909,255, and at the end of the year £3,036,670. The balance of gain for the year was £127,415 or £1 6s. 4d. per member, in 1927, as compared with £182,595, or £1 19s. 4d., in 1926.

Investment of Funds.

The net income from investments credited to the Sick and Funeral Funds for 1927 amounted to £168,447, the average rate being £5 16s. 7d. per cent., as against £5 16s. 3d. in 1926.