

STATISTICS OF MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS.

The following table shows the membership of 885 lodges* of the Dominion for the year 1928 :—

Number of members, 1st January	98,251
Number admitted by—	
Initiation, &c.	9,098
Clearance	1,202
	10,300
	108,551
Number who died	756
Number who left by—	
Clearance	1,307
Arrears, &c.	5,560
	7,623
Number of members, 31st December	100,928

The above figures show an increase in membership equal to 2·72 per cent., as compared with 3·01 per cent. for 1927.

The total funds of the societies and branches as at the 31st December, 1928, amounted to £3,728,087, made up as follows: Sick and Funeral Funds (inclusive of amounts transferred to special funds out of surplus), £3,457,115. Medical and Management Funds, goods, &c., £270,972. 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 £36 18s. 9d.

Taking the several years 1919–1928, 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.
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
1926	843	94,467	3,337,683	35 6 8
1927	864	98,251	3,526,717	35 17 11
1928	885	100,928	3,728,087	36 18 9

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 at the 31st December, 1928 :—

Funds.	As ets.
£	£
Sick and Funeral Funds	Investments at interest
Surplus Appropriation Funds, &c. . .	Value of land and buildings
Management Funds, goods, &c. . .	Cash not bearing interest
Widow and Orphans' Funds	Value of goods
Distress, Benevolent Funds, &c. . .	Other assets
	Owing by Management Funds
Total	Total

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 according to the latest received statistics, and in the Dominion of New Zealand as at the 31st December, 1927, 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

* 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.