

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, 1935.

Name of Society.	Central Bodies.	Branches.
M.U.I.O.O.F.	1	4
I.O.O.F.	..	13
A.O.F.	2	20
U.A.O.D.	..	7
I.O.R.	1	6
O.S.T.	..	1
H.A.C.B.S.	1	..
P.A.F.S.A.	1	1
I.F.S., &c.	..	26
	6	78
	84	

STATISTICS OF MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS.

The following table shows the membership of 929 lodges* of the Dominion for the year 1934 :—

Number of members, 1st January	100,237
Number admitted by—	
Initiation, &c.	6,519
Clearance	936
	7,455
	107,692
Number who died	935
Number who left by—	
Clearance	957
Arrears, &c.	5,092
	6,984
	100,708

The above figures show an increase in membership equal to 0·47 per cent., as compared with a decrease of 1·78 per cent. for 1933.

The total funds of the societies and branches as at the 31st December, 1934, amounted to £4,676,427, made up as follows: Sick and Funeral Funds (inclusive of amounts transferred to special funds out of surplus), £4,332,392; Medical and Management Funds, goods, &c., £344,035. 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 £46 8s. 9d.

Taking the several years 1925–1934 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.
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
1929	900	105,154	3,927,433	37 7 0
1930	906	107,167	4,130,117	38 10 9
1931	912	105,660	4,277,715	40 9 9
1932	912	102,052	4,398,158	43 1 11
1933	918	100,237	4,538,095	45 5 6
1934	929	100,708	4,676,427	46 8 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, 1934 :—

Funds.	Assets.
	£
Sick and Funeral Funds	3,883,557
Surplus Appropriation Funds, &c... ..	448,835
Management Funds, goods, &c.	188,988
Widow and Orphans' Funds	31,978
Distress, Benevolent Funds, &c.	123,069
	Investments at interest
	Value of land and buildings
	Cash not bearing interest
	Value of goods
	Other assets
	Owing by Management Funds
Total	£4,676,427
	Total
	£4,676,427

*The word "lodges" when applied to all societies is to be understood as embracing the synonymous terms "court," "tent," &c., as used in the various orders.