

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, 1933, arranged in order of membership :—

State or Dominion.	Date of Return.	Number of Lodges.	Number of Members.	Amount of Funds.	Capital per Member.
New South Wales	30th June, 1933 ..	2,452	211,567	£ 4,304,722	£ s. d. 20 6 11
Victoria	" " ..	1,443	158,516	5,486,050	34 12 2
New Zealand	31st Dec., " ..	918	100,237	4,538,095	45 5 6
South Australia	30th June, " ..	823	71,275	2,518,002	35 6 7
Queensland	30th June, 1932 ..	613	66,166	1,746,397	26 7 11
Tasmania	31st Dec., " ..	191	25,352	436,218	17 4 2
Western Australia	30th June, 1933 ..	347	22,233	508,420	22 17 4

Sickness.

The number of members sick during 1934 was 23,295, equal to 24·7 per 100 members at risk. The sickness experienced during 1934 was 260,264 weeks, equal to 11 weeks 1 day per sick member, and 2 weeks 5 days for each member at risk.

Mortality.

A statement of the average mortality experienced during the years 1930-34 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.
1930	821	7·70	334	3·13
1931	874	8·18	372	3·48
1932	834	8·00	393	3·77
1933	852	8·39	363	3·57
1934	935	9·26	326	3·23

Sick and Funeral Funds.

The contributions and entrance fees paid to Sick and Funeral Funds in 1934 amounted to £181,945. Divided by the mean number of members the average for 1934 was £1 16s. 3d., as against £1 15s. 7d. for 1933.

The interest and rent received by the lodges and central bodies amounted to £166,797 in 1934, equal to £1 13s. 2d. per member as against £1 11s. 10d. for 1933.

The amount of sickness benefit paid was £163,397 in 1934, equal to £7 0s. 3d. per member sick, and £1 12s. 6d. per member as against £7 10s. 11d. and £1 10s. 3d. respectively for 1933. Viewing the amount paid in relation to the weeks of sickness the average benefit per week is found to be 12s. 7d. in 1934, the same as for 1933.

The funeral benefit paid amounted to £42,301 in 1934, equal to 8s. 5d. per member, as compared with 7s. 9d. for 1933.

The total worth of the Sick and Funeral Funds at the beginning of 1934 was £3,789,534, and at the end of the year £3,883,557. The balance of gain for the year was £94,023, or 18s. 9d. per member, in 1934, as compared with £69,528, or 13s. 9d., in 1933.

Investment of Funds.

The net income from investments credited to the Sick and Funeral Funds for 1934 amounted to £166,797, the average rate being £4 8s. 11d. per cent., as against £4 7s. 6d. in 1933.

TABLE SHOWING THE TOTAL WORTH OF SICK AND FUNERAL FUNDS AS AT THE 1ST JANUARY, 1934, AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1934, INCLUSIVE OF ACCUMULATIONS HELD BY CENTRAL BODIES, ALSO AMOUNT AND AVERAGE RATE OF INTEREST EARNED.

Name of Society.	Total Worth of Sick and Funeral Funds as at		Amount of Interest.	Average Rate per Cent.
	January 1, 1934.	December 31, 1934.		
M.U.I.O.O.F.	£ 1,314,197	£ 1,356,594	£ 58,290	4·46
I.O.O.F.	356,319	349,679	15,305	4·43
N.I.O.O.F.	5,401	5,287	157	2·98
B.U.O.O.F.	6,591	6,318	316	5·02
A.O.F.	718,051	724,775	30,867	4·37
A.O.S.	1,246	..	..	..
U.A.O.D.	956,443	996,475	42,409	4·44
I.O.R.	184,352	190,918	8,245	4·49
O.S.T.	29,307	29,847	1,474	5·11
S.D.T.	12,567	11,918	540	4·51
H.A.C.B.S.	99,595	103,429	4,159	4·18
P.A.F.S.A.	50,174	51,341	2,181	4·39
G.U.O.O.F.	3,462	3,792	150	4·22
Other societies	51,829	53,184	2,704	5·29
Totals	3,789,534	3,883,557	166,797	4·44

TRADE-UNIONS.

There were twenty-five unions on the register at the end of the year.