

STATISTICS OF MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS.

The following table shows the membership of 960 lodges* of the Dominion for the year 1937 :—

Number of members, 1st January	108,059
Number admitted by—	
Initiation, &c.	9,903
Clearance	1,660
	11,563
	119,622
Number who died	1,007
Number who left by—	
Clearance	1,709
Arrears, &c.	4,018
	6,734
Number of members, 31st December	112,888

The above figures show an increase in membership equal to 4·47 per cent., as compared with 4·29 per cent. for 1936.

The total funds of the societies and branches as at the 31st December, 1937, amounted to £5,120,125, made up as follows: Sick and Funeral Funds (inclusive of amounts transferred to special funds out of surplus), £4,718,816; Medical and Management Funds, goods, &c., £401,309. Dividing the total funds by the number of members at the end of the year it is found the average capital per member it now £45 7s. 1d.

Taking the several years 1928–37, 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.
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
1935	936	103,612	4,812,787	46 9 0
1936	945	108,059	4,956,948	45 17 5
1937	960	112,888	5,120,125	45 7 1

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, 1937 :—

Funds.	Assets.
£	£
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, 1936, 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, 1936 ..	2,428	206,857	4,581,385	22 2 11
Victoria		1,449	184,090	5,858,951	31 16 6
New Zealand	31st Dec.,	945	108,059	4,956,948	45 17 5
South Australia	30th June,	740	89,886	2,668,315	29 13 9
Queensland	 1935	606	67,653	1,843,595	31 1 7
Tasmania	31st Dec.,	192	24,584	455,363	18 10 5
Western Australia	30th June, 1936 ..	340	24,203	599,830	24 15 8

* 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.