

Valuations were made of the following societies : M.U.I.O.O.F., Ashburton District and Ashley District ; P.A.F.S.A., Grand Council of New Zealand ; Otago Railway Employees' Benefit Society. Summarised results of the valuations are given in two tables A and B (Appendix V.).

In this connection it may be stated that the valuation of several other societies is in hand, but cannot be completed for want of the necessary particulars in respect of a few branches. This has caused great inconvenience.

The following 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 Australasian States and in the Colony of New Zealand, according to the latest received statistics, arranged in order of membership : —

State or Colony.	Date of Return.	Number of Lodges.	Number of Members.	Amount of Funds.	Capital per Member.
				£	£ s. d.
Victoria .. ..	31st December, 1903 ..	1,155	101,717	1,475,403	14 10 1
New South Wales .. ..	" 1902 ..	990	96,671	802,609	8 6 1
New Zealand .. ..	" 1903 ..	465	45,255	883,751	19 10 7
South Australia .. ..	" 1899 ..	474	43,043	535,198	12 8 8
Queensland .. ..	" 1903 ..	388	31,913	314,711	9 17 3
Tasmania .. ..	" 1902 ..	171	15,456	115,945	7 10 0
Western Australia .. ..	" 1903 ..	199	12,522	71,022	5 13 6

#### OTHER SOCIETIES ON REGISTER.

In Table VII. some details are given of such isolated societies, working-men's clubs, and specially authorised societies on the Register as supplied returns in a form that could be utilised. Of isolated societies, returns were received from seventeen, with a membership of 2,401, and assets valued at £7,419. Fifteen working-men's clubs also sent in returns ; the membership is given as 5,837, and the assets as £32,062. Of specially authorised societies, such as dispensaries, money clubs, bands, &c., the membership is given as 2,945, and the value of the assets as £60,411.

#### TRADE-UNIONS.

It will be seen by Appendix III. that there are but sixteen trade-unions still registered under "The Trade Union Act, 1878," and some of these are, so far as "The Trade Union Act, 1878," is concerned, practically defunct, as the members are merged into the various combinations registered under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act. This falling-off in numbers is due to some extent to the following : There has always been a disinclination on the part of trade-unionists registered under the Act of 1878 to render annual statements of receipts and expenditure, and of the number of members of these organizations, even though the particulars were not published. The objections have, however, been in some degree overcome, as under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act a Parliamentary Paper showing the number of members of each industrial union is published annually.

There were no transactions under the Act during 1904.

Wellington, 27th June, 1905.

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