

## MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS.

The following table shows the increased membership in 516 lodges\* which furnished returns for 1907 :—

						1907.	
Number of members, 1st January	..	..	..	..	..	52,806	
Number admitted by—							
Initiation, &c.	..	..	..	..	7,690		
Clearance	..	..	..	..	418		
						8,108	
Number who died	..	..	..	..	385		60,914
Number left by—							
Clearance	..	..	..	..	447		
Arrears, &c.	..	..	..	..	3,265		4,097
Number of members at 31st December	..	..	..	..	..		56,817

\* 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.

The increase during 1907 was 7·6 per cent., as compared with 6·01 per cent. for 1906.

The total funds of the societies and branches as on the 31st December, 1907, amounted to £1,118,216 18s. 11d. made up as follows: Sick and Funeral Funds (inclusive of amounts transferred to special funds out of surplus), £1,033,477 6s. 10d., Medical and Management Funds, goods, &c., £84,739 12s. 1d. 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 £19 13s. 7d.

Taking the several years 1900–1907, the number of lodges whose returns were tabulated, the number of members, total funds, and average capital per member at the end of each were as under :—

Year.	Number of Lodges tabulated.	Number of Members.	Total Funds.	Average Capital.
			£	£ s. d.
1900	443	40,257	766,480	19 0 9
1901	445	41,236	804,753	19 10 4
1902	462	43,408	846,315	19 9 11
1903	465	45,255	883,751	19 10 7
1904	479	47,302	936,388	19 15 11
1905	501	51,103	996,224	19 9 11
1906	500	53,759	1,057,821	19 13 6
1907	516	56,817	1,118,217	19 13 7

The following statement shows the total funds (including those of the central bodies) as on the 31st December, 1907 :—

Funds.				Assets.			
			£				£
Sick and Funeral Funds	..	..	1,005,084	Investments at interest	..	..	912,654
Surplus Appropriation Funds	..	..	28,393	Value of land and buildings	..	..	143,527
Management Fund, goods, &c.	..	..	63,137	Cash not bearing interest	..	..	41,807
Widow and Orphans' Funds	..	..	9,926	Value of goods	..	..	11,524
Distress, Benevolent Funds, &c.	..	..	11,677	Other assets	..	..	7,363
				Owing by Management Fund	..	..	1,342
Total	..	..	1,118,217	Total	..	..	1,118,217

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 Australian States and in the Dominion of New Zealand, according to the latest received statistics, 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.
Victoria	31st December, 1906	1,351	116,562	1,708,346	14 13 2
New South Wales	" 1906	1,314	107,723	1,069,975	9 18 8
New Zealand	" 1906	500	53,759	1,057,821	19 13 6
South Australia	" 1904	493	49,241	676,040	13 14 7
Queensland	" 1905	405	32,164	359,371	11 3 6
Tasmania	" 1904	166	16,287	136,786	8 7 11
Western Australia	" 1906	237	14,630	108,286	7 8 0