

MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS.

The following table shows the increased membership in 505 lodges* which furnished returns for 1908 :—

					1908.	
Number of members, 1st January	..	..	..	..	..	54,980
Number admitted by—						
Initiation, &c.	..	..	..	..	7,700	
Clearance ..	..	..	..	..	566	
						8,266
Number who died	..	..	..	..	376	63,246
Number left by—						
Clearance ..	..	..	..	..	599	
Arrears, &c.	..	..	..	..	3,754	
						4,729
Number of members at 31st December	..	..	..	..	..	58,517

* 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 1908 was 6·43 per cent., as compared with 7·6 per cent. for 1907.

The total funds of the societies and branches as on the 31st December, 1908, amounted to £1,123,886 4s. 6d., made up as follows: Sick and Funeral Funds (inclusive of amounts transferred to special funds out of surplus), £1,034,195 10s.; Medical and Management Funds, goods, &c., £89,690 14s. 6d. 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 4s. 1d.

Taking the several years 1900–1908, 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
1908	505	58,517	1,123,886	19 4 1

The following statement shows the total funds (including those of the central bodies) as on the 31st December, 1908 :—

Funds.				Assets.			
			£				£
Sick and Funeral Funds .. .. .	..	..	1,006,057	Investments at interest .. .. .	..	..	927,742
Surplus Appropriation Funds .. .. .	..	..	28,139	Value of land and buildings .. .. .	..	..	137,644
Management Funds, goods, &c. .. .. .	..	..	58,557	Cash not bearing interest .. .. .	..	..	38,885
Widow and Orphans' Funds .. .. .	..	..	10,451	Value of goods .. .. .	..	..	11,665
Distress, Benevolent Funds, &c. .. .. .	..	..	20,682	Other assets .. .. .	..	..	7,020
				Owing by Management Fund .. .. .	..	..	930
Total .. .. .	..	..	1,123,886	Total .. .. .	..	..	1,123,886

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, 1907	1,376	123,443	1,793,186	14 10 6
New South Wales	" 1906	1,314	107,723	1,069,975	9 18 8
New Zealand	" 1907	516	56,817	1,118,217	19 13 7
South Australia	" 1906	506	52,165	743,795	14 5 2
Queensland	" 1907	424	35,622	424,576	11 18 5
Tasmania	" 1906	156	17,736	152,023	8 11 5
Western Australia	" 1906	237	14,630	103,320	7 1 3