

The following statement shows the disposal of the total funds (including those of the central bodies) as on the 31st December, 1911 :—

Funds.			Assets.		
		£			£
Sick and Funeral Funds .. ..	..	1,285,032	Investments at interest .. ..	..	1,198,648
Surplus Appropriation Funds, &c. ..	..	48,967	Value of land and buildings .. ..	..	168,040
Management Funds, goods, &c. ..	..	72,590	Cash not bearing interest.. ..	..	49,148
Widow and Orphans' Funds .. ..	..	11,989	Value of goods .. ..	..	13,292
Distress, Benevolent Funds, &c. ..	..	22,775	Other assets .. ..	..	10,763
			Owing by Management Fund .. ..	..	1,462
Total .. ..	..	£1,441,353	Total .. ..	..	£1,441,353

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 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.
New South Wales .. ..	31st December, 1910	1,681	151,401	1,437,797	9 9 11
Victoria .. ..	1910	1,475	142,275	2,122,602	14 18 5
New Zealand .. ..	1910	609	68,006	1,367,282	20 2 1
South Australia .. ..	1906	506	52,165	743,795	14 5 2
Queensland .. ..	1910	464	42,246	546,430	12 18 8
Tasmania .. ..	1910	173	21,063	198,079	9 8 1
Western Australia .. ..	1910	262	16,397	163,669	9 19 8

I also add a table setting out the proportion of members of friendly societies to the general population in Australasia. In this comparison with the principal States, New Zealand shows a low rate, notwithstanding a slightly higher percentage of population between the ages of fifteen and sixty-five. The inference would appear to be that a massed population in one large city, as in the Australian States, is more favourable for the operations of friendly societies than where the people are better distributed, as in this Dominion. Further data, however, is necessary before arriving at any conclusion on this interesting point.

State or Dominion.	Percentage of Friendly Society Members to Population.	Percentage of Population at Ages 15 to 65.
Victoria .. ..	10·93	60·42
New South Wales .. ..	9·21	60·62
New Zealand .. ..	<b>6·78</b>	<b>62·56</b>
South Australia .. ..	14·08	60·30
Queensland .. ..	7·05	60·79
Tasmania .. ..	10·87	58·81
Western Australia .. ..	5·92	69·26

#### SICKNESS.

The number of members sick during 1911 was 11,607, equal to 17·36 per 100 members at risk. The sickness experienced during 1911 was 101,209 weeks 2 days, equal to 8 weeks 4 days per sick member, and 1 week 3 days for each member at risk.

Owing in great measure to differences in the proportion of members at the several ages, the averages in the several districts differ considerably, also in the several societies or orders. The figures for the five large orders for 1911 are found to be as follows :—

Order.	Percentage Sick.	Sickness per Member.		Ratio (per Cent.) to Total Sickness.		
		Sick.	At Risk.	First 6 Months.	Second 6 Months.	After 12 Months.
		Weeks.	Weeks.			
M.U.I.O.O.F. .. ..	17·84	10·29	1·84	46	8	46
I.O.O.F. .. ..	15·09	6·13	0·92	73	9	18
A.O.F. .. ..	17·97	9·49	1·70	50	9	41
U.A.O.D. .. ..	17·31	6·21	1·07	70	8	22
I.O.R. .. ..	14·96	7·76	1·16	61	7	32
All societies .. ..	17·36	8·72	1·51	53	8	39

The percentage of members sick for the year 1911 was therefore highest in the A.O.F., while the average sickness per member at risk was highest in the M.U.I.O.O.F. and lowest in the I.O.O.F. In 1910 the percentage of members sick was 18·67, the average sickness per member sick was 8·23 weeks, and the average sickness per member at risk 1·54 weeks.