

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES AND STAFF.

The offices of the Registrar, together with the National Provident Fund, have been transferred from the Government Buildings to the Bank of New Zealand Building, Te Aro, owing to space-pressure. The change enabled the whole staff to be accommodated under one roof, which conduces to a more efficient supervision of the work. I have to report that the staff, in the face of changes and interruptions, have loyally performed their duties, although this has on several occasions involved considerable inroads on their own time.

GENERAL STATISTICS.
Membership and Funds.

The following table shows the increased membership in 681 lodges* of the Dominion, which furnished returns for 1913:—

Number of members, 1st January	...	...	...	73,579
Number admitted by—				
Initiation, &c.	...	...	6,048	
Clearance	...	...	764	
				<u>6,812</u>
				80,391
Number who died	...	...	523	
Number left by—				
Clearance	...	...	844	
Arrears, &c.	...	...	5,333	
				<u>6,700</u>
Number of members at 31st December	...	...	...	73,691

The increase in membership during 1913 was 0·15 per cent., as compared with 2·20 per cent. for 1912, a result not unexpected in a year noted for industrial upheavals.

The total funds of the societies and branches as on the 31st December, 1913, amounted to £1,643,177, made up as follows: Sick and Funeral Funds (inclusive of amounts transferred to special funds out of surplus), £1,517,708; Medical and Management Funds, goods, &c., £125,469. 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 £22 6s.

Taking the several years 1904–1913, 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.
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
1909	567	64,428	1,266,297	19 13 1
1910	609	68,006	1,367,282	20 2 1
1911	658	71,771	1,441,353	20 1 8
1912	664	73,243	1,553,339	21 7 4
1913	681	73,691	1,643,177	22 6 0

The following statement shows the disposal of the total funds (including those of the central bodies) as on the 31st December, 1913:—

Funds.	Assets.
	£
Sick and Funeral Funds	1,465,159
Surplus Appropriation Funds, &c.	52,549
Management Funds, goods, &c.	83,615
Widow and Orphans' Funds	13,156
Distress, Benevolent Funds, &c.	28,698
Total	£1,643,177
	£
Investments at interest	1,391,972
Value of land and buildings	173,614
Cash not bearing interest.. .. .	51,339
Value of goods	14,078
Other assets	10,439
Owing by Management Fund	1,740
Total	£1,643,177

* 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.