

ANNUAL RETURNS OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, ETC.

The Friendly Societies Act requires these returns to reach me on or before the 31st March in each year. The number outstanding at that date is greater than in the previous year in the respective societies as given herewith :—

Annual Returns Outstanding at 31st March, 1919.

Name of Society.						Central Body.	Branches.
M.U.I.O.O.F.—							
Auckland District	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
New Plymouth District	..	..	..	..	..	1	3
Wanganui District	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Wellington District	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Ashley District	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
North Canterbury District	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Lyttelton District	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Otago District	..	..	..	..	..	1	7
Southland District	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
I.O.O.F. of New Zealand	..	..	..	..	..	..	34
N.I.O.O.F.	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
A.O.F. of New Zealand							
Auckland District	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Hawke's Bay District	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Taranaki District	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Wellington District	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
South Canterbury District	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
United Otago District	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Courts not in any district	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
U.A.O.D.—							
Grand Lodge of the North Island of New Zealand	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Grand Lodge of Canterbury District	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Grand Lodge of Otago and Southland District	..	..	..	..	..	1	3
I.O.R.—							
New Zealand District	..	..	..	..	..	1	7
New Zealand Central District	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
S.D.T.—							
National Division of New Zealand	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Divisions separately registered	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
H.A.C.B.S.	..	..	..	..	..	1	35
P.A.F.S.A.	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
I.F.S., &c.	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
						11	198
						209	

STATISTICS OF MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDS.

The following table shows the membership of 731 lodges* of the Dominion for the year 1918 :—

Number of members, 1st January	..	..	..	..	..	68,771
Number admitted by—						
Initiation, &c.	..	..	..	..	2,473	
Clearance	..	..	..	..	324	
						2,797
						71,568
Number who died	..	..	..	..	1,821	
Number left by—						
Clearance	..	..	..	..	327	
Arrears, &c.	..	..	..	..	1,893	
						4,041
Number of members at 31st December	..	..	..	..	..	67,527

Although these figures still show a slight decrease in membership, the percentage loss is reduced from 2·7 per cent. in 1917 to 1·8 per cent. in 1918. This is the first year since 1914 with the initiations in excess of the exits through arrears, and the figures would have been still more favourable but for the epidemic mortality.

* 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.