

The total funds of the societies and branches as on the 31st December, 1918, amounted to £2, 00,443, made up as follows : Sick and Funeral Funds (inclusive of amounts transferred to special funds out of surplus), £1,948,209 ; Medical and Management Funds, goods, &c., £152,234. 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 £31 2s. 1d.

Taking the several years 1909–1918, the number of lodges whose returns were tabulated, the number of members, total funds, and average capital per member at the end of each year were as under :—

Year.	Number of Lodges tabulated.	Number of Members.	Total Funds.	Average Capital.
			£	£ s. d.
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 4 2
1913 .. .. .	681	73,691	1,643,177	22 6 0
1914 .. .. .	717	74,074	1,744,456	23 11 0
1915 .. .. .	728	73,027	1,852,355	25 7 4
1916 .. .. .	727	70,360	1,954,940	27 15 8
1917 .. .. .	730	68,771	2,052,753	29 17 0
1918 .. .. .	731	67,527	2,100,443	31 2 1

These sums are, of course, held against the societies' liabilities under their sickness and funeral insurances, and the actuarial reports issued from time to time indicate how far they are sufficient or otherwise.

The above figures include the latest statistics received from lodges.

The following statement shows the disposal of the total funds (including those of the central bodies) as on 31st December, 1918 :—

Funds.	Assets.
	£
Sick and Funeral Funds .. .. .	1,873,510
Surplus Appropriation Funds, &c. .. ..	74,699
Management Funds, goods, &c. .. ..	97,285
Widow and Orphans' Funds .. .. .	16,964
Distress, Benevolent Funds, &c. .. ..	37,985
Total .. .. .	£2,100,443
	£
Investments at interest .. .. .	1,781,268
Value of land and buildings .. .. .	204,218
Cash not bearing interest .. .. .	57,470
Value of goods .. .. .	12,855
Other assets .. .. .	41,114
Owing by Management Fund .. .. .	3,518
Total .. .. .	£2,100,443

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, 1917	1,884	178,857	2,113,754	11 16 4
Victoria .. .. .	" 1917	1,516	158,181	3,017,503	19 1 6
New Zealand .. .. .	" 1917	730	68,771	2,052,753	29 17 0
South Australia .. .. .	" 1917	596	66,241	1,323,067	19 19 6
Queensland .. .. .	" 1917	548	51,383	902,210	17 11 2
Tasmania .. .. .	" 1917	190	22,138	245,666	11 1 11
Western Australia .. .. .	" 1917	275	17,969	274,546	15 5 7

#### Sickness.

The following comparative table of sickness experienced for 1917–18 is given :—

Year.	Number Sick.	Number Sick per 100 at Risk.	Period per Sick Member.	Period per Member at Risk.	Cost.		
					Per Member at Risk.	Per Member Sick.	Sick-pay per Week.
			Weeks days.	Weeks days.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1917 .. .. .	9,950	14·34	11 5	1 4	1 2 0	7 14 0	0 12 11
1918 .. .. .	14,767	21·77	9 3	2 0	1 8 5	6 11 1	0 13 9

These figures indicate the heavy strain thrown on the funds of societies in 1918, and illustrate in a striking manner the value of benefit funds so constituted as to successfully bear the increased burden of the epidemic. In the large consolidated societies, the effect was hardly felt, and only in some of the smaller and separate lodges has any anxiety been expressed.

It is entirely to the credit of the registered friendly societies that they were prepared and able to meet this calamitous visitation and to succour during the year so large a number of persons.