

The following statement shows the disposal of the total funds (including those of the central bodies) as on 31st December, 1924:—

Funds.				Assets.			
Sick and Funeral Funds .. ..	..	..	£ 2,618,326	Investments at interest .. ..	..	..	£ 2,530,826
Surplus Appropriation Funds, &c. ..	..	..	135,645	Value of land and buildings .. ..	..	..	278,949
Management Funds, goods, &c. ..	..	..	131,387	Cash not bearing interest.. ..	..	..	89,460
Widow and Orphans' Funds .. ..	..	..	21,850	Value of goods .. ..	..	..	18,970
Distress, Benevolent Funds, &c. ..	..	..	48,132	Other assets .. ..	..	..	28,502
				Owing by Management Funds .. ..	..	..	8,633
Total .. ..	..	..	£2,955,340	Total .. ..	..	..	£2,955,340

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.
New South Wales	30th June, 1923 ..	2,163	214,766	£ 2,756,361	£ s. d. 12 16 8
Victoria	31st December, 1922	1,467	146,688	3,549,798	24 4 0
New Zealand	" 1923	774	84,228	2,747,952	32 12 6
South Australia	" 1923	632	72,454	1,749,332	24 2 11
Queensland	" 1923	531	59,649	1,227,043	20 11 5
Tasmania	" 1923	190	24,367	315,367	12 18 10
Western Australia	" 1923	265	19,590	349,928	17 17 3

Sickness.

The number of members sick during 1924 was 13,686, equal to 17·41 per 100 members at risk. The sickness experienced during 1924 was 153,997 weeks, equal to 11 weeks 2 days per sick member, and 2 weeks for each member at risk.

Mortality.

The following statement of average mortality experienced during the years 1920-24 is given herewith, but it takes no account of age incidence:—

Year.						Members.		Wives.	
						Number who died.	Number per 1,000 Members at Risk.	Number who died.	Number per 1,000 Members at Risk.
1920 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	664	9·17	285	3·94
1921 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	615	8·08	261	3·43
1922 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	649	8·18	296	3·73
1923 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	684	8·29	328	3·98
1924 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	674	8·09	295	3·54

Sick and Funeral Funds.

The contributions and entrance fees paid to Sick and Funeral Funds in 1924 amounted to £155,764. Divided by the mean number of members the average for 1924 was £1 16s. 4d., as compared with £1 15s. 11d. in 1923.

The interest and rent received by the lodges and central bodies amounted to £138,607 in 1924, equal to £1 12s. 4d. per member, as against £1 11s. 1d. for 1923.

The amount of sickness benefit paid was £98,360 in 1924, equal to £7 3s. 9d. per member sick, and £1 2s. 11d. per member, as against £6 10s. 8d. and £1 5s. 1d. respectively for 1923. Viewing the amount paid in relation to the weeks of sickness, the average benefit per week is found to be 12s. 9d. in 1924, as against 13s. 2d. for 1923.

The funeral benefit paid amounted to £29,090 in 1924, equal to 6s. 9d. per member, as compared with 7s. 4d. for 1923.

The total worth of the Sick and Funeral Funds of 782 lodges at the beginning of 1924 was £2,445,025, and at the end of the year £2,618,326. The balance of gain for the year was £173,301, or £2 0s. 5d. per member, in 1924, as compared with £136,870, or £1 13s. 2d., in 1923.

Investment of Funds.

The net income from investments credited to the Sick and Funeral Funds for 1924 amounted to £138,607, the average rate being £5 12s. 7d. per cent., as against £5 10s. 10d. in 1923.