The total funds of the societies and branches as on the 31st December, 1909, amounted to £1,266,296 15s. 3d., made up as follows: Sick and Funeral Funds (inclusive of amounts transferred to special funds out of surplus), £1,171,562 9s. 4d.; Medical and Management Funds, goods, &c., £94,734 5s. 11d. 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 £19 13s. 1d.

Taking the several years 1900–1909, 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.
1900	443	40,257	766,480	19 0 9
1901	445	41,236	804,753	19 10 4
1902	462	43,408	846,315	19 9 11
1903	465	45,255	883,751	19 10 7
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

The following statement shows the total funds (including those of the central bodies) as on the 31st December, 1909:—

Funds.	£	Assets.	£
Sick and Funeral Funds	1,133,534	Investments at interest	1,042,088
Surplus Appropriation Funds, &c.	38,029	Value of land and buildings	153,557
Management Funds, goods, &c.	62,389	Cash not bearing interest..	46,594
Widow and Orphans' Funds	11,045	Value of goods	12,730
Distress, Benevolent Funds, &c.	21,300	Other assets	9,938
		Owing by Management Fund	1,390
Total	1,266,297	Total	1,266,297

The following 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.
Victoria	31st December, 1907	1,376	123,443	1,793,186	14 10 6
New South Wales	" 1908	1,393	118,276	1,258,023	10 12 9
New Zealand	" 1908	505	58,517	1,123,886	19 4 1
South Australia	" 1906	506	52,165	743,795	14 5 2
Queensland	" 1908	446	37,557	461,238	12 5 8
Tasmania..	" 1907	179	18,954	162,643	8 11 7
Western Australia	" 1908	258	16,098	129,537	8 0 11

Sickness.

The number of members sick during 1909 was 10,381, equal to 17·14 per 100 members at risk. The sickness experienced during 1909 was 86,558 weeks 3 days, equal to 8 weeks 2 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 larger orders for 1909 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.	Wks. dys. hrs.			
M.U.I.O.O.F.	17·68	9·62	1 4 22	48	7	45
I.O.O.F.	15·15	6·11	0 6 12	75	7	18
A.O.F.	17·81	8·98	1 4 5	53	8	39
U.A.O.D.	16·41	5·92	0 6 19	73	9	18
I.O.R.	15·49	7·76	1 1 10	69	8	23
All societies	17·14	8·34	1 3 0	55	8	37