

others have been made, viz. : that married women should be entitled to medical benefit; to sanatorium benefit; to sick pay whilst undergoing institutional treatment; and that they should be allowed to continue membership of the society upon a reduced scale of contributions, equivalent to those modified benefits.

SANATORIUM BENEFIT.—Sanatorium benefit to be extended to the wives and the children of insured persons so far as the available funds permit. It is part of the proposal for this extension of sanatorium benefit that the local authorities and the Treasury should each bear one-half of any extra cost, if they agree to the expenditure (as in the case of excess charges for medical benefit under Clause 14).

SICKNESS BENEFIT: WAITING PERIOD OF THREE DAYS.—In the event of the available margin not being used in extending sanatorium benefits as outlined above, or in other directions, the Government to recommit the Bill in order that the proposal for a waiting period of three days before sickness benefit commences, under Clause 8 (1) (c), may be reconsidered.

PERSONS RECEIVING PAYMENT DURING SICKNESS AS A CONDITION OF SERVICE.—Where employed persons receive, as a condition of service, wages during sickness—*e.g.*, clerks, domestic servants, seamen, nurses in hospitals, &c., and in some localities agricultural labourers—such persons to be excluded from part of the sickness insurance and a reduced rate of contributions accepted for the remaining benefits (disablement allowance, &c.).

DISPENSERS.—If anything in the Bill has the effect of depriving any persons, who at present have the right to dispense medicines, of the right to dispense under the Bill (subject to the three years' qualification mentioned in Clause 14 (5) (iii.)), the Bill will be amended so as to prevent their being deprived of that right.

APPROVED SOCIETIES.

It will be noted in Section 3 of Clause 18 that any body of persons may form a society to insure nurses. As the Bill now stands the entire power is in the hands of the members of an approved society, but the amendment gives most of the power to "a committee of management or other governing body" elected by the members. Certainly, but who will now have the power to elect all committees, representatives and officers, and to entirely control expenditure! Should this amendment be adopted (and nurses ought to oppose it) it will make it quite imperative that nurses should form a self-governing approved society of their own, unless they wish to have hundreds of thousands of their money expended by persons who do not contribute one penny towards the scheme.

PERSONS RECEIVING PAYMENT DURING SICKNESS AS A CONDITION OF SERVICE.

The amendment deprives nurses in hospitals and others of power to insure for the maximum weekly sickness benefit, if their employers pay wages during sickness. It is altogether most unjust, and of course affects many more women than men. It compels nurses to pay towards the care in sickness always provided for them by hospital managers, and will result in domestic servants sacrificing the insurance money they have paid for, and the sum which is paid them by the State—or attempting to provide board, lodging and nursing for themselves on 7s. 6d. a week; an absolute impossibility.

THE REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN.

It will be seen that the amendments do not provide for the representation of women on the Insurance Commission or the Advisory Committees, but they may be appointed members of the Local Health Committees.

The fact is, without the Vote women do not exist politically. All they have got to do is to pay up when despotic laws, made without their consent, compel them to do so.

THE MATRON'S COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Matrons' Council will be held at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., on Wednesday, October 11th, at 3.30 p.m. After the formal business, a meeting will be held for the discussion of the position of the Nursing Profession under the National Insurance Bill. As the subject is of great interest and importance to matrons, it is hoped that as many members will be present as possible.

THE SOCIETY FOR STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

By request, the date for the meeting of the Executive Committee has been altered from October 12th to Thursday, October 19th, as some members are unable to attend the Matrons' Council meeting on the 11th, and that of the State Registration Society on the following day.

STATE REGISTRATION IN AUSTRALIA.

The report of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association states: "State Registration is still in the future, but it is trusted in the near future. . . . It is hoped that the Bill may be made a Government measure for the present year."

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