

community must realise that power is in the hands of the medical profession in this dispute and they intend to use it conscientiously.

We only wish trained nurses instead of being a plastic mass—had, in the past, through conscientious co-operation for the public good, been able to enforce just representation of their undeniable claims to special consideration in connection with the National Health Act. But their usual apathy in time of peace will probably result in their ruthless subjection in time of war! It is not, however, too late to do the right and public-spirited thing. Let it be done. Let them help to amend the Act. In the meantime let trained nurses make the best of circumstances. If they have to insure, let them do so in *self-governing societies* provided for by the Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society in England, and societies organized by Scottish Nurses in Scotland, and Irish Nurses in Ireland. It will be very unfair if matrons and medical men hand them over "to be done for" by financiers who have no other interest in their condition but that of profit.

THE TRAINED WOMEN NURSES' FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

The Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society is now prepared to receive the names of Nurses who wish to become members—to meet the requirements of the National Insurance Act.

The Society will consist of Female Sick Nurses trained and in training.

The full control of the Society will be in the hands of the members.

All Nurses—except those who earn more than £160 per annum, or who have a private income of £26 and upwards—must insure.

It is obvious that it is to the advantage of Nurses to insure with a Society that is entirely devoted to their interests and over which they have complete control.

*The benefits provided by the Act are as follows:—**MEDICAL BENEFIT**, *i.e.*: Free Medical Attendance, including Drugs and Appliances. **SANATORIUM BENEFIT**: Free Treatment in Sanatoria or other institutions, or otherwise, when suffering from Tuberculosis, and such other diseases as the Local Government Board, with the approval of the Treasury, may direct. **SICKNESS BENEFIT**: Payment of 7s. 6d. per week during sickness up to a period of twenty-six weeks. **DISABLEMENT BENEFIT**: Payment of 5s. per week for the rest of the period the member is unable to work. **MATERNITY BENEFIT**: A grant of 30s. on the birth of a child provided the mother or her husband is a member of an Approved Society. Such additional or alternative benefits as the Society may give under a scheme made by them and sanctioned by the Insurance Commission.

NOTE.—Medical and Sanatorium benefits, and additional benefits in the nature of Medical

* If the medical profession come to terms with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Insurance Commissioners.

benefit, are administered by the Insurance Committee for the County (or County Borough) in which the insured person entitled to them is for the time being resident. All other benefits are administered by the Society, and all applications relative to them must be addressed to the Secretary.

The Society will apply to the Commissioners for leave to administer the benefits in such a manner as will be most advantageous to Nurses.

Pensions and superannuation allowances are not part of the scheme of the Act, but the Society will be able to obtain advantageous terms for its members from a thoroughly reliable Life Insurance Society.

Nurses and employers are required to contribute 3d. each weekly, to which the State adds 2d. Cards will be issued from the Society on which stamps for the amounts due will be affixed, which cards will be returned to the Society either monthly, quarterly, or annually, as by arrangement.

It is hoped to come to a mutual arrangement with a Scottish Nurses' Friendly Society, and with an Irish Nurses' Friendly Society, by which Nurses can transfer, on passing to work, from one country to another.

The Act—unless postponed—comes into force on July 15th, but the Act provides that no payments will be made until members have contributed for twenty-six weeks.

Nurses who wish to join are requested to send for and sign a Card, and return it to

The Hon. Secretary,

Miss M. MOLLETT,
Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society,
431, Oxford Street, London, W.

One day last week in the House of Commons, Mr. C. Bathurst asked whether, in the case of nurses, secondary school teachers, and other professional workers, who desire to form their own separate societies under the National Insurance Act, in order to provide benefits suited to their special requirements, it will be necessary to limit the membership of such societies to the geographical areas of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland respectively, and to prevent the formation of such societies in countries like Wales, if the number of persons employed there in such professions does not amount to 5,000?

Mr. Masterman (the Secretary to the Treasury), replied: Either one society for the four parts of the United Kingdom or a separate society for each part could be formed. Separate funds would require to be kept in any case; and if the numbers of members in one part of the United Kingdom were less than 5,000 it would be necessary for them to be associated or grouped under the provisions of section 39, for the purpose of valuation.

So it is quite clear, as we have always said, that unless 5,000 nurses form an approved society in each country, they must be grouped with others; and also that under all circumstances separate funds would have to be kept.

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