

She might become a voluntary contributor while on the staff of an exempted hospital, but would have to pay both the employer's and employee's contributions, and on joining a non-exempted hospital would require to be transferred to the compulsorily insured class and would receive reduced benefit (Sect. VI.).

Our resolution also refers to partial exemption, which may not unlikely be claimed by some hospitals.

An hospital nurse, being usually engaged for over six months, would come under Section 47, 3, and therefore, if she took ill just before the expiration of her period of service, she would be entitled to no benefit from her employer from the expiry of that period, and would get no sickness benefit till six weeks from the commencement of her illness.

Should she become temporarily unemployed (47, 5), as is the case with most nurses upon leaving hospital, she would get no sickness benefit for six weeks.

Should she desire to become a voluntary contributor, she could do so, but would get no sickness benefit for the first six weeks of any illness unless she became an ordinary voluntary contributor and paid 26 contributions at the full rate.

(Sgd.) P. HAMILTON ROBERTSON, M.B.,  
Hon. Secretary,  
Scottish Nurses' Association.

National Health Insurance Commission (Scotland),  
42, Frederick Street, Edinburgh,

May 15, 1912.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 1st inst., I am directed by the Scottish Insurance Commissioners to say that, in view of the terms of paragraph (b) of Part II. of the First Schedule to the National Insurance Act, it appears to them that of the two classes of hospitals to which the resolution of the association seems to relate—viz., that supported by the rates and that maintained by voluntary subscriptions it is only in the case of the former that exception from the necessity to come under the operation of the Act, in cases where the Commissioners issue the necessary certificate, applies.

With regard to what is said in the resolution, I have to state that, while the Commissioners cannot undertake to adopt the suggestion therein contained as a general line of policy, but must consider on its merits each application from a local or public authority as it comes before them, they are fully conscious of the possible hardships which might arise consequent on the granting of a certificate of exception, and they will give their careful attention to the question, with a view to considering what can be done to obviate the disabilities imposed on nurses and others leaving excepted employment under a local or public authority to take up work elsewhere.

(Sgd.) J. BURY FRASER,  
Assistant Secretary,  
National Health Insurance Commission.

#### REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Sister T. C., Manchester.*—There is no supplementary course of education in this country to enable a Sister to qualify as the head of a training school for nurses. Many women are appointed to these posts who know nothing of nursing standards outside the institution at which they were trained, and have never prepared or given a lecture in their lives. A special course for Matrons is a very urgent need in this country. The assumption that women's work in hospitals needs no standard results in the most haphazard appointments.

*Miss Mayhew, Nottingham.*—We cannot advise you to train at the hospital mentioned. The two years' certificate will in the future be found disadvantageous. It is unjust to deprive the probationers of the third year's experience in the wards for the commercial support of the institution. Enter a hospital where you can work for a three years' certificate.

*"In Doubt," Birmingham.*—You would find the work of a school nurse full of interest if you realise the value of the preventive side of nursing. It is more scientific to grapple with and eliminate conditions which produce disease than to concentrate upon nursing the patient when he has contracted a disease he would never have had if he had lived in hygienic surroundings. Both are, of course, necessary in the present stage of development, but you need never fear that you will not have scope for your talents as a school nurse.

*"Mother," London.*—Write to Miss Wortabet, the Hindhead Nursing Home, Hindhead, Surrey. The Home is provided with all the requisite appliances for the treatment required. We do not think it is possible to carry out the treatment in a private house. See page x.

#### OUR PRIZE COMPETITION FOR JULY.

*July 6th.*—Describe the different ways in which Drugs may be introduced into the system.

#### NOTICES.

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