

THE BUDGET PROPOSALS AND NURSING FOR THE INSURED.

The proceedings of the Panel Committee for London have now been opened to representatives of professional journals and the first meeting under these conditions was held on Tuesday, May 26th. One could not help being struck with the amount of work that the Insurance Act involves; members found before them an agenda as large as that of the London Insurance Committee itself, and of a far more complicated character owing to the intricacy of professional relationships and the difficult questions that arise between Commissioners, Insurance Committee, chemists and approved societies. Although the Committee sat for three hours a special meeting is to be held to finish the agenda.

The Committee expressed the opinion that proprietary drugs and preparations should not be supplied at the cost of the drug fund, and that "thermogene" should be regarded as a proprietary preparation. The most important matter before the Committee was somewhat hurriedly dealt with at the end of the meeting. This was a report crystallising the professional view of that part of the national budget in which funds are set aside to aid the establishment of laboratories and the provision of skilled nursing.

A DEPUTATION TO THE CHANCELLOR.

The Committee discussed the character of the assistance which would be most beneficial to the practitioner and to the insured person, and decided to appoint a deputation to wait upon the Chancellor, and the Chairman of the Insurance Commissioners, to state the terms upon which the services of medical referees should be available, and to urge that chemical, pathological, and bacteriological laboratories were desirable, but that they should be administered by a central body like the London County Council and not by the borough.

RECOMMENDATIONS *re* NURSING.

The Panel Service Sub-Committee also recommended that the following view be expressed by the deputation:—

That the services of skilled nurses should be available without fee to the practitioners on the panel, for the nursing of insured persons for whom such attendance is necessary.

The Committee agreed to this and to an amendment to add the words:

"and that it should be a condition attaching to the receipt of a grant that provision shall be made for increases in the salaries of nurses and for pensions on retirement."

The Sub-committee also recommended:—

That it is desirable that the present voluntary nursing agencies and societies should be aided under suitable safeguards, rather than that nurses should be appointed by the State, the local authorities, the insurance committees or by approved societies.

Dr. Claude Taylor moved the following amendment: That the conditions attaching to the receipt of a grant by a society should provide that the nurses employed shall be adequately trained and that no religious or other test shall be required from applicants for appointments as nurses.

Dr. H. J. Cardale thought that the words in the motion, "under suitable safeguards," were sufficient without the amendment, and would prevent biblewomen being sent to nurse, while at the same time not excluding the valuable aid received from religious nursing bodies.

The amendment was lost and the recommendation agreed to.

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES. LONDON BRANCH.

SUMMER PROGRAMME.

Saturday, June 6th, 2.30 p.m.—Visit to St. Thomas's Hospital.

Friday, June 19th, 7.30 p.m.—By kind invitation of Miss Paget all members of the London Branch are invited to the Midwives' Club, when the present Bill on State Registration of Nurses will be discussed.

Saturday, June 27th or July 4th.—Social meeting at Edmonton Infirmary, by kind invitation of the Matron, Miss Dowbiggin, and with the permission of the Guardians.

Saturday, July 18th, 3 p.m.—Visit to Guy's Hospital.

As the number will be necessarily limited at all the meetings, with the exception of that at the Midwives' Club, 12, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C., members are requested to notify to the Hon. Secretary those they would wish to attend in the order of preference.

THE MANCHESTER BRANCH.

A correspondent writes:—

The first members' meeting of the Manchester Branch of the N.U.T.N. was held on May 21st at Parkfried Special Schools, Swinton. Mr. Telford, F.R.C.S., gave a most interesting lecture on the History of Spinal Curves, and demonstrated at the same time with children who were undergoing treatment. The method is absolute rest with extension; nourishing food, milk, butter, dripping; life in the open air. The children are nursed, and receive their lessons during school hours in portable shallow wooden boxes on which is laid and fixed a fitted Jean corset, into which the child is strapped and extension in plaster applied to the legs. Here he or she lies in the garden at lessons or play until well enough to be allowed to walk. Then a plaster jacket, including perhaps a hood for the head, is applied. About fifty members were present to enjoy the lovely afternoon, and friendly discussion was encouraged as to suggestions for future meetings; and Mrs. Burgess, the Branch President, was introduced to us. By next month there will be over one hundred members enrolled, and further applications will be welcomed by the Hon. Sec., Miss Mundy, Royal Infirmary, Manchester.

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