

It may seem incongruous that the Arts League of Service, which stands for modern movements in Art, should give its entertainment in a hospital ward to patients who, being classed as "incurable," are out of the current of life's progress. The action, however, is after all quite logical, and in accordance with the aim of the League, which is "to bring Art into everyday life," and could hardly be better carried out than in solacing these sufferers. Believing that Art is the joy of life, the A.L.S. have taken it to the Prince Francis Ward of the Middlesex Hospital to cheer the clouded lives of its inmates. Science has done all it can for them. Art steps in and takes them away for a while from their hopeless groove to a happy world of colour and sweet sound and joyous movement. It was interesting to hear from their lips how much they liked the fine old folk songs and dainty Elizabethan ditties, sung and acted in picturesque costumes (designed by artists), and the graceful Greek "expressionist" dancing, that the A.L.S. gave them. "It was so restful and happy; just what we could enjoy," was their verdict.

The entertainment, given on June 15th, was one of a weekly series arranged by the Dowager Lady Brassey for the patients in the Middlesex Hospital. Its success opens up new suggestions in the field of art—why should it not take a definite place in the work of the hospital? Art and its possibilities in national life is just now very much to the fore.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

THE RESULT OF APATHY.

Now that the Labour Bill has passed its third reading in the House of Commons, there is no chance of escape for Probationers and Trained Nurses who have not an income with emoluments calculated at £250 a year. This tax has been exacted from them and their employers upon the determination of Dr. Macnamara, the Minister for Labour, who ignored the united protest of all the Nurses' Organizations in their objection to coming under the Act—in our opinion a very arbitrary action, clearly calculated to benefit the industrial and not the professional worker. We regret the Nurses' Organizations did not rouse themselves and make a really effective opposition. What is the use of a membership of 20,000 trained nurses, such as claimed by the College of Nursing, Ltd. if it cannot, together with other nurses' organizations, bring the slightest pressure to bear to prevent such unjust treatment of nurses. Anyway one more nail is thus driven in the coffin into which the corpse of good nursing is being crammed by ill-judged Labour legislation.

THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE BILL.

In the National Health Insurance Bill introduced in the House of Commons by Sir Alfred

Mond, Minister of Health, the first two clauses are based on the recommendations of the recent Departmental Committee on Approved Societies' Administration Allowance. No change is proposed either in the rates of contribution, or normal rates of benefit under the Acts, but the administration allowance for approved societies is increased from 4s. 5d. to 4s. 10d., and to make provision for this the Bill proposes that a small reduction should be made in the amount retained out of each weekly contribution for the purposes of the Contingencies Fund, thus leaving a greater amount in the general funds of the societies out of which the administration allowance is provided. The proportion of two-ninths of the cost of benefits and administration to be provided by the Exchequer remains unaltered. The Exchequer is enabled to reduce or suspend its contribution of £150,000 a year to the Central Fund *pari passu* with the contribution thereto from the Societies' Contingencies Funds.

Provision is made, in Clause 2, for a contribution of twopence per member per annum from the funds of approved societies, in addition to that now paid, towards the administration expenses of insurance committees, with corresponding relief to the Exchequer.

Clause 3 enables a reduction to be made in the membership of insurance committees in England and Wales, with a consequent saving in the administration expenses of the committees, while retaining, so far as practicable, the present proportions between the classes of persons to be appointed. It is estimated that the net saving to the Exchequer, as from January 1st last, will be about £300,000 per annum.

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John Bond's Marking Ink has an established reputation of over a century—a reputation only enhanced by time, for it is pre-eminently a marking ink which stands the test of time. It is supplied to the Royal Households, and to a number of Government Departments, as well as to the London County Council and the Metropolitan Asylums Board.

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[previous page](#)

[next page](#)