

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH.

**THE RIGHT HON. SIR EDWARD HILTON YOUNG,
G.B.E., D.S.O., D.S.C., M.P.**

Of all the appointments to the new Cabinet that Nurses watched most intently was the appointment of the Minister of Health, for under the Nurses' and Midwives' Acts for England and Wales, there is a close connection between the Minister responsible to Parliament for the health of the Nation, and those who carry out the practical details of preventive and curative nursing.

There was therefore much pleasure in nursing circles when it was known that Sir Edward Hilton Young had been appointed to this position, for he is known as a patriot who served in the *Vindictive* at Zeebrugge Mole, and in command of an armoured train in Archangel in the Great War. Since 1926 he has had a seat as Crown Nominee on the General Medical Council, and for the last three years as a member of its executive committee, of which he has proved a most acceptable member.

In connection with the General Nursing Council there are several important matters which we hope will engage the sympathetic attention of the Minister of Health.

(1) The definition of a prescribed syllabus of training for Nurses. The Nurses' Registration Act provides that Rules made under Section 2 of the Act shall not come into operation unless and until they are approved by the Minister of Health.

(2) The inspection of Nursing Schools by experienced nurses. It is evident that before such schools are recognised for the purpose of training they should be inspected.

(3) We hope also that the Minister will discourage leniency on the part of the General Nursing Council in keeping the names of thieves upon the Register.

The whole question of the Registration of Mental Nurses also requires authoritative investigation. There is no doubt whatever that probationers in mental hospitals are strongly urged to train for the examination of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association of which most of the Medical Superintendents of Asylums are members. But when mental nurses leave their training schools, and more especially when they go abroad, they will find that they are expected to hold the State Certificate that they have been ill advised to work for any other.

Speaking recently at a dinner of the Fishmongers' Company, the Minister of Health said: We had just witnessed an almost miraculous resurrection of the spirit of the nation. It seemed as if our land had suddenly awakened from troubled dreams to the need for one of those times of unity and effort that had been the forerunners and the causes of its great advances in the past.

A thought on this new moral health of the nation came natural to one so recently called to the high office of the Ministry of the nation's physical health. Whatever else might change, it remained true that among the assets on which we had to rely in the new advance there was none so rich as the health of the nation. Economy was

one thing, parsimony another. Economy enriched; parsimony might impoverish. Economy demanded the development of national assets so that each might give the greatest return to the nation. The return on no asset of the nation could be more increased by development than the return on the asset of health. The common health was the very foundation on which all fresh effort must be built, the base from which all advance must proceed. Health, liberty, and wealth, and the greatest of these is health; for if a nation has that, the others will be added to it."

From a Minister with courage and vision we may hope much.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION.

BART'S DEMONSTRATOR TO ASSIST RED CROSS SERVICE.

In view of the increasing importance of blood transfusion, the Medical Research Council and the British Red Cross Society have appointed Dr. H. F. Brewer, Senior Demonstrator of Pathology at St.

Bartholomew's Hospital, to be Medical Officer to the Blood Transfusion Service organised by the Red Cross.

Dr. Brewer will supervise the examination of transfusion volunteers, the collation of information on the effect of blood transfusion on donors, and carry out active and continuous research into blood grouping, so that the Service may be kept abreast of the latest developments in surgery and hæmatology. Laboratory facilities are being provided by St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Since it was first started in 1921 the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service has grown steadily in scope. Last year, 1,627 transfusions were carried out, as against 1,333 in 1929. For the first nine months this year the figure was 1,502.

The rise in the figure last year and this is all the more significant when it is remembered that the success of liver treatment, which is now being

widely prescribed for pernicious anæmia, has in many cases obviated the necessity for successive blood transfusions.

The membership of the Service is now over 1,100, of whom about a fifth are women. More than a third of the members belong to the Rover Scouts, but very few social service organisations are not represented on its list of volunteers. Considerable help has been given lately to the Service by banks, insurance companies and commercial houses, many of whom now allow members of their staff to leave during office hours to meet urgent calls.

It was originally anticipated that a few hundred donors would be ample to meet the needs of all the London hospitals. Experience now shows that at least 2,000 will be required, and even this estimate may have to be revised. The operation is neither painful nor in the least harmful to the donor, and he or she is frequently benefited by it. In most cases the donor, if called on in the daytime, returns to work within an hour. All expenses, including fares, telephone calls and time lost from work are immediately refunded.



**LIEUT.-COM. THE RIGHT HON. SIR EDWARD
HILTON YOUNG, G.B.E., D.S.O., D.S.C., M.P.
MINISTER OF HEALTH.**

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)