

from tuberculosis, venereal disease or mental affliction. The Local Government Act, 1929, marked a further extension, with its impetus to the provision of public general hospitals based on wider areas and divorced from association with the Poor Law."

"The year has seen not only the inauguration of a new service of domiciliary midwifery which marks a further stage in the development of the maternity services, and the conclusion of a comprehensive review of the problem of maternity mortality, but also the inclusion of the legislative framework of the maternity and child welfare service in the Public Health Act of 1936. Thus maternity and child welfare takes its rightful place in the statute book, as it had already done in fact, as part of the great structure of our public health services."

THE MIDWIVES ACT, 1936.

"The outstanding event of the year has been the passage of the Midwives Act, 1936, a measure which it may be hoped will be a landmark in the history of the maternity services in this country."

"The importance of post-certificate instruction for midwives has become increasingly recognised of recent years, and a valuable provision of the Midwives Act, 1936, requires all midwives to attend courses of instruction at regular intervals which will be prescribed by rules made by the Central Midwives Board and approved by the Minister.

"A further important provision of the Midwives Act, 1936, enables the Minister to make Regulations prescribing the qualifications of Supervisors of Midwives. The Minister has reminded the Authorities of the importance of appointing persons who, besides fulfilling the requirements of the Regulations, possess the essential qualities of tact and sympathy, and who would recognise that it should be their aim to be regarded not as relentless critics of the midwives, but rather as their helpers and counsellors."

NURSES' REGISTRATION ACT, 1919.

The number of nurses on the Register kept under this Act for England and Wales on March 31st, 1937, was 84,310, including 48,588 placed on it by examination and 955 placed on it under the Rules of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales as to reciprocity.

Conferences with the General Nursing Council, the Nursing Associations and the British Hospitals Association were held regarding the objections to the proposed Rule, to which reference was made in the Report for last year, designed to secure a minimum standard of general education for probationers entering training schools. This exchange of views between the interested parties, which was still in progress at the end of the year, has been necessary in order to enable the Minister to determine how far he can approve the General Nursing Council's proposals, consistently with the maintenance of an adequate staff of nurses for the hospitals.

NURSING HOMES REGISTRATION ACT, 1927.

"In view of representations made to him as to the existence of nursing homes which had escaped the vigilance of the Local Supervising Authorities, the Minister reminded these Authorities, in Circular 1574 of September 30th, 1936, of the importance of ascertaining the existence of any unregistered nursing homes, and suggested that the co-operation of the doctors practising in the area should be enlisted for this purpose. At the same time, it was urged that the Authorities should take the opportunity of reviewing their arrangements for the supervision and inspection of the nursing homes registered under the Act."

The Report contains very much more of interest, but we have utilised the limited space at our disposal to the above subjects as being of special interest to our readers. The Report in its entirety will repay careful study. It can be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2 (Cmd. 5516), price 5s. net.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

THE PRIME MINISTER'S CALL TO THE NATION.

Great Health Campaign.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, will inaugurate a great national health campaign to encourage the wider use of the existing health services and to bring home the need for increased physical fitness of the individual, at a Reception to be held at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine on the evening of September 30th, which will be attended by Lord Mayors, Mayors and civic heads of County Councils, County Borough Councils, and other Welfare and Education Authorities throughout the country.

The Prime Minister's speech will be broadcast on the National wavelength. This will be the first broadcast speech delivered by Mr. Neville Chamberlain as Prime Minister, and it will be broadcast through the Empire.

Mr. Chamberlain will be supported by the Minister of Health, Sir Kingsley Wood, the President of the Board of Education, Lord Stanhope, Mr. Arthur Greenwood, Sir Percy Harris and others.

The campaign, which is being organised by the Ministry of Health and the Board of Education in co-operation with the Central Council for Health Education, will be divided into five periods. October will be devoted to a general introduction to the campaign, the keywords of which will be "Towards a Fitter Britain—Use Your Health Services."

November and December will be devoted to the Maternity and Child Welfare services; January to the School Medical and Dental services and the milk-in-the-schools scheme; and February to the Tuberculosis and other services for adolescents and adults.

In the month of March there will be a link-up with the National Fitness Council, who will draw attention to the facilities already existing for physical training and recreation and to the further facilities to be provided under the Physical Training and Recreation Act, 1937.

Throughout these months some millions of leaflets will be distributed and posters will be displayed by Local Authorities; a number of meetings will be organised by Local Authorities which will be addressed by members of the Government, by members of the three political parties and by other prominent persons; and other ancillary methods will be adopted such as the display of films of special health interest. The arrangements for the campaign locally will be co-ordinated by the respective Local Authorities.

INFORMATION ABOUT LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES.

"Ask at the Post Office."

The Minister of Health, Sir Kingsley Wood, has communicated to all local health authorities arrangements made with the co-operation of the Postmaster-General for providing information in Post Offices about the public health services available in the locality.

Every Post Office will display a notice as follows:—

"Particulars can be obtained at the counter about the Health Services in this district, including the addresses of the Ante-natal Clinics and Child Welfare Centres, and the times at which they are open."

It is suggested that the "particulars" should take the form of a leaflet headed "Health Services," which will be handed to inquirers or shown to them and will contain the particulars about maternity and child welfare referred to in the notice, information about such matters as the way to get an ambulance, the address of the local medical officer of health, the vaccination officer, etc., and the local hospitals, with their out-patient hours.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)