

### SWEDEN HELPS BRITAIN'S NATIONAL FITNESS CAMPAIGN.

On the invitation of distinguished British and Swedish organisations a party of 40 young Swedish men and women have spent time in this country to further the work of the National Fitness Council. The team took part in the celebration of the centenary of P. H. Ling, the founder of modern gymnastics at the British Ling Association's headquarters in London, and have given demonstrations to students in many of our leading towns, and in conjunction with British teams took part in a wonderful demonstration at the Royal Albert Hall. These gymnasts, so perfectly formed and developed, prove how beautiful the human body can be.



SWEDISH GYMNASTS AT THE LING PHYSICAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION.

All the girls were dressed in blue short-skirted costumes with bare arms and legs. The men wore long white trousers and singlets. The demonstration consisted of free rhythmic exercises to music and work on their own apparatus. In the latter hand-springs, vaults, and agility work were beautifully performed.

#### WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

The Minister of Health, Sir Kingsley Wood, has issued a circular to the local authorities who are responsible for the administration of services for the welfare of the blind. The communication explains the provisions of the Blind Persons Bill, which has now been passed by both Houses of Parliament, and also draws attention to certain aspects of blindness due to cataract.

#### Pension Age Reduced.

Under the Bill, which came into operation on the 1st April, the age at which blind persons become eligible for

old age pension is reduced from 50 to 40. Local authorities are required to grant all assistance to blind persons, other than medical or institutional assistance, exclusively under the Blind Persons Acts, thus removing blind persons almost entirely from the operation of the Poor Law. Further in deciding whether to grant financial assistance to a blind person and what amount of financial assistance is to be granted, local authorities are required to take into account not only the needs of the blind person himself but also the needs of dependent members of his household. In the calculation of his means for this purpose a blind person is put in the same favourable position as an applicant for unemployment assistance in that certain sources of income, such as specified amounts of sick pay, National Health Insurance benefit, wounds or disability pension, workmen's compensation, are to be disregarded.

#### Treatment for Cataract.

As regards blindness due to cataract attention is drawn to a recent report on the subject by the Prevention of Blindness Committee of the Union of Counties Associations for the Blind. The Report recommends that the facts in regard to operative treatment for cataract should be made more widely known and that special considerations should be taken into account in determining whether a person previously registered as blind is properly still to be regarded as blind after the extraction of cataract.

#### NEGLECTED HEALTH SERVICES.

Mr. Robert Bernays, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health, when opening the Health Week organised by the Notts County Council and the Central Council for Health Education at Worksop, said that in spite of the steady improvement in health it was clear that the health services were not used as they ought to be.

Throughout the country the number of expectant mothers who visited the ante-natal clinics was less than half of the total. The number of children brought to the welfare centres in the first year of their life was only 60 per cent. The school medical service was not used as it should be, nor were the facilities offered for the treatment of tuberculosis. The purpose of the campaign was to make known the fact that the health services existed.

#### FREE HOME NURSES.

The New Zealand Government aims at free medical services for all through a national health insurance and superannuation scheme.

The Government propose that everyone shall be entitled free to the services of a general practitioner, and to hospital, sanatorium, mental hospital, and maternity treatment, and later, when practicable, to the services of specialists, dentists, opticians, and home nurses.

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