

biscuits in case he is prevented by an air raid from getting home in time for his meal. If he travels far from his home, or is liable to be detained owing to an air raid, he should carry a spare syringe and insulin with him, so that he can have his injection of insulin at the right time.

The diabetic patient should always remember the dangers which may occur owing to the war, and it is up to him to lighten the work of the busy A.R.P. wardens and doctors as much as possible. He can best do this by always carrying his diabetic card and identity disc.

THE DEATH OF SIR FREDERICK BANTING.

The members of the Nursing Profession throughout the world learned with real grief of the tragic death of Sir Frederick Banting in a flying accident. A loss to humanity, so greatly in his debt. The discoverer of insulin, thousands of sufferers from diabetes owed years of useful life to his genius, our dear Margaret Brey amongst them. Formerly an unknown Canadian doctor—he awoke to find himself famous—and for once he received the honour and reward which was his due. The Nobel Prize, Hon. Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and an annuity of £1,500 a year from the Canadian Government to enable him to pursue his researches. Sir Frederick Banting was at the time of his death in Newfoundland, on research work of immeasurable value to the nation.

IMPROVED SHELTERS.

Much is being done to try and improve shelters in London. Two hundred and fifty trained nurses have been allocated to medical aid posts, and have started work. In most shelters a trained nurse is now on duty all the time.

Local authorities in the London region are being urged to instal water-borne sanitation in the larger shelters, and it is hoped that at the same time they will make some provision for hand-washing and so on.

AN UNDERGROUND SLUM.

The country owes a great debt of gratitude to Lord Horder for the public-spirited manner in which he has tackled the shelter difficulty. Speaking at a meeting recently Lord Horder said :—

A big part of the shelter problem was whether children should be allowed to remain there all round the clock. There were children in some underground shelters in the provinces who had not been into the sun and air for three or four weeks. He had seen worse things lately during his tour in the provinces than he had seen in London recently.

He had seen an underground slum in the making; in fact, it was made, and it was so made that it was going to be very difficult to unmake it. The Regional Commissioner was so concerned about the state of the children that he was seriously considering whether he would not advise the Ministers concerned to evacuate them compulsorily. That was a step which would be novel and probably would not be taken.

The future was what worried him. He would hate to see the casual shelter emerge as a slum habitation. The people had to be made safe hygienically, and so far as possible happy spiritually.

LINER HOSPITAL SHIP.

One of Holland's most luxurious liners, the motor vessel *Oranje* (19,850 tons), is to be converted into a hospital ship, states the Netherlands News Agency.

The ship will be presented to the British Government for the evacuation of British casualties in the Near East, the Dutch East Indies Government bearing the cost of fitting-out the ship and supplying the medical staff.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

THE NEW MINISTER OF HEALTH, THE RIGHT HON. ERNEST BROWN, M.P.

The Rt. Hon. Ernest Brown, who has been appointed Minister of Health, is, we believe an Englishman, and this is all to the good—as of late years this Ministry has apparently become a perquisite of Scottish members of Parliament, and as it has no authority over Registered Nurses in Scotland, we think it is only fair that English nurses should have appeal to one of their own nationality. Not only have the two recent Ministers been Scotsmen, but the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry, Miss Horsbrugh, also represents a Scottish constituency.

Mr. Ernest Brown, who is member for Leith, has for the past few months been Secretary for Scotland. He was previously Minister of Labour from 1935–1940, and Minister of National Service, 1939–40. He was Liberal M.P. for Leith, 1927–31, and National Liberal member since 1931, Secretary to Mines Department, 1932–35. Mr. Brown, who is 59, is a Baptist lay preacher and Brotherhood worker.

We give these few details because it is the duty of every Registered nurse to know who controls the Government Department which exercises certain authority through the Nurses' Registration Act over her professional status and education, and in some degree over the expenditure of the G.N.C. which she finances, and the day is past when members of a great national service, like the Profession of Nursing, should be content to submit blindly to political authority without exercising conscientious discrimination concerning her work and duty.

We know that it was pressure and manipulation by the Ministry of Health that systematically, for years, worked to smash up the One Portal to the Register—and which with packed representation influenced the G.N.C. to support its policy *in camera*.

Already the Profession of Nursing is on the down grade, and if we do not wish to emulate the evolutions of the Gadarene swine, we must impress the new Minister of Health that we realise our responsibility.

We hope he will look carefully into the demand of the Royal College of Nursing to require Parliament to register semi-trained nurses, and thus depreciate the status of thoroughly trained Registered Nurses.

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

We are glad to note that Bart's has received a handsome legacy by the will of Mrs. Sarah Harriett Coole, of Horsham, who left £32,817. After a legacy of £1,000 to Horsham Cottage Hospital and a few small legacies, the residue goes to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

The Hospital Saving Association has just made a final distribution of £75,000 to the London voluntary hospitals in respect of its last financial year.

This is in addition to the record rate of 6s. per in-patient day already paid, and has the effect of increasing that rate by nearly 20 per cent. to 7s. 2d. a day. Sums received by some of the teaching hospitals were :—

London Hospital (interim payments), £22,710—(now received) £4,452; Guy's Hospital, £11,772—£2,294; St. Bartholomew's Hospital, £12,365—£2,364; Middlesex Hospital, £10,394—£2,025; St. Thomas's Hospital, £9,575—£1,875; King's College Hospital, £7,700—£1,498.

The University of Edinburgh have offered the Polish Government facilities, which have been accepted, for the establishment of a Polish School of Medicine. This will be staffed by professors and teachers now serving with the Polish Army in this country and by professors of the University Faculty of Medicine in such subjects as may not be represented among the Polish professors.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)