

benefit throughout from the very best professional and expert advice and guidance they could obtain.

Mr. Willink went on to refer to some of the main features which the Government felt to be fundamental to their proposals. The first was that of the free choice of doctor. There is no doubt, he said, that the personal and intimate relationship of doctor and patient was inherent in medical practice in this country. There were very few people who did not attach the greatest importance to being free to choose their own medical adviser and to change to another when they wanted to do so. Very few people wanted to be doctored by a service. They liked being doctored by the doctor of their choice.

Secondly, there was, in the belief of the Government, no case for anything which could reasonably be called a regimentation of the medical profession. Some people believed in a salaried medical service; some believed in the present basis of practice, under which a doctor, broadly speaking, was remunerated according to the number of patients whose care he undertook; some people believed in practising in groups; some people believed in practising as separate individuals. These varying beliefs were not only found among the doctors; they were found among the patients; and so, in this matter, he would emphasise that, whatever rumour might say, the Government had no intention of seeking to establish a fully salaried State medical service. They believed that where doctors practised in public health centres there must be a system of payment which did not involve competition between one another, and that was a proposal which was to be found in the White Paper with regard to practice in health centres. But it would be a mistake to universalise one system at this stage. The service should be big enough to give scope to all these points of view. All should be tried, and the public would steadily find its own preferences.

The Nursing Profession.

In a reference to the Nursing Profession, Mr. Willink said: "In a Paper of this kind it is natural to stress the doctor and the hospital, but I should like to say here that that does not mean that we underrate the vital part to be played by the nurse, the midwife, and all the medical auxiliaries, as they come to be called in war. The success or failure of this scheme will depend in large measure on the nurse, not only in hospital and clinic, but in the home, because the intention is to provide a real service of home nursing and ways and means must be worked out with the nursing profession itself. That is one of the next jobs to do. Here, too, we want to build on good existing foundations. I should like to pay a tribute in passing to the work being done by the district nursing associations and the Queen's Institute of District Nursing. The nurse in this scheme will not be merely an executive, she will have a proper share in the whole machinery which is proposed for professional and expert consultation in running the scheme. The Nursing Profession will have its place, too, on the Central Health Services Council and on the Local Health Services Councils, and we intend that nurses shall find their place, too, on the expert inspectorate which we propose for the hospital service."

We hope the Nursing Profession will note this determination of the Minister of Health, and that it will do

all in its power to inspire the Health Services to maintain the highest and most efficient standards that nursing can attain—unqualified and semi-trained standards of nursing must be determinedly opposed.

We advise nurses to make every effort to follow the progress of the proposed National Health Service.

We are indebted to the *Public Assistance Journal* for much of the above report.

IN MEMORIAM.

On April 3rd, 1944, at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, died Helen Thompson Baines, Assistant Matron of the Hospital since 1921, whose career at the Hospital dated from her entry there in 1909. Her life was one of continuous devotion to nursing and the highest interests of the nursing profession. She headed the list in her first year's examination and won the prize known as "The Books," and was the Gold Medallist in her final Hospital Examination.

Helen Baines has left an imperishable memory of the perfect example of a Nurse-administrator, for in all she achieved there remained the human touch bounded with an unerring wisdom.

Her intellectual interests in all that related to the International Nursing Organisations were broadminded and helpfully constructive, though her first and foremost loyalties remained true as the finest wrought steel to her own school of training to which her life's work was given.

As a recognition within the power of its Constitution, Miss Baines was elected for life to the office of Vice-President, the first member to receive this recognition, of the League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses in 1939, a title conferred on members who have given notable services to the League or nursing, which she had performed through her devotion to the work of the League during her long term of office as Honorary General Secretary, until December, 1938, and in the words of the citation, "for the unselfish example of her work."

A Memorial Service was held on Thursday, April 6th, in the Church of St. Bartholomew-the-Less. As she would have wished, the note resounding through the Service was one of "Resurrection," when all pain and tears are washed away, and with lovely Spring flowers around her. Special mention must be made of a large wreath of beautiful red roses, the token of undying love from those left behind.

The little Church was filled to capacity with members from every branch of the staff in the Hospital, her relations, friends and members of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses.

Sir George Aylwen occupied the Treasurer's own pew, and Miss Dey, Matron and Superintendent of Nursing, took her rightful place in the pew that holds memories of all the leaders of our profession who have held this great responsibility.

The Service was conducted by the Acting-Vicar and Hospitaller, the Reverend G. H. Salter, and the Lesson from the Book of the Revelation was read by Dr. A. E. Gow. And so Helen Baines passed through the Smithfield Gate with the words of the great beatitude ringing in the ears of one in that gathering, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." G. Le G.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)