

for women of which the employer pays 2d. in each case.

In Northern Ireland the total contribution is 8d. for men and 7½d. for women, the employer paying 3½ in both cases. In the Irish Free State the total is 7d. for men and 6d. for women of which 3d. is paid by the employer.

In Great Britain and Northern Ireland one-seventh of the benefits granted to insured men and one-fifth of those granted to insured women are paid by the State. By an amendment of 1930 a special grant for medical benefit is provided. In the Irish Free State the state pays for two-ninths of the benefit.

Benefits.

The rate of benefit is 15s. a week for men and 12s. a week for women, payable for not more than 20 weeks. If, at the end of this period, the insured person remains unable to work the sickness benefit is replaced by disablement benefit which is 7s.-6d. a week for both men and women. An approved society which shows a surplus may grant certain additional benefits. Benefits in kind include medical and pharmaceutical assistance. Medical attendance for persons supported by the insured person is granted.

Conditions of Benefit.

An insured person is not entitled to sickness benefit until 26 weeks have elapsed since his entry into insurance and 26 weekly contributions have been paid by or in respect of him. For disablement benefit and for the full rate of sickness benefit the period is fixed at 104 weeks and 104 contributions must have been paid. Sickness benefit is payable on and from the fourth day of incapacity to work. Contributors are protected for one year in case of unemployment. The Bill now (April, 1928) before Parliament provides that arrears of contributions due to unemployment shall not involve any penalties and authorizes financial assistance to approved societies in order that they may sustain the burden thus imposed.

Greece.

Introduction.

Compulsory sickness insurance was instituted by an Act of 1923.

Persons Insured.

The law covers wage-earners in general, that is to say, all persons working otherwise than on their own account in industrial, handicraft, and commercial undertakings in the building and transport industries. Wage-earning and salaried employees and servants of both sexes employed for remuneration are included irrespective of the way in which such remuneration is calculated. Homeworkers are not liable to compulsory insurance but may insure voluntarily. Temporary and casual workers are not liable.