

No sickness, disablement or maternity benefit is paid to the inmate of a workhouse, hospital, asylum, convalescent home, infirmary, sanatorium, or similar institution.

COMMISSIONERS' POWERS AND DUTIES.

Insurance commissioners are to be appointed, with a central office in London, and such branches as the treasury think fit.

At least one commissioner must be a doctor, who has had personal experience of general practice.

Amongst the important powers of the commissioners are the following:

The inclusion of trades now exempted under Part II. of the Act, dealing with unemployment assurance.

The contributions payable by post-office contributors.

Regulations for the payment of the contributors of insured persons and of employers.

The reduction of rates of benefit where the sickness or disablement benefits exceed two-thirds of the wages.

Establishing working relations between the friendly societies and the local health committees; and between these and medical practitioners as to medical attendance, the supply of drugs, and other matters.

Approving the regulations of the health committees in regard to sanatoria.

Laying down the conditions on which friendly societies shall be "approved" and the method in which their affairs are to be conducted, including the "pooling" of small societies.

Appointment of an advisory committee.

Special orders on "contracting out" and the alteration of the terms of benefits in regard to domestic servants and other classes of employed persons; and with regard to seasonable trades.

The control of the national health fund, and the establishment of a reserve values fund.

Procedure as to inquiries in cases of excessive sickness.

Regulations "for any of the purposes for which regulations may be made under the Act, and generally for carrying out the Act." Such regulations to have the effect of law.

Settling disputes between members and societies or societies and branches, or difficulties arising with respect to the health or advisory committees.

Formulating the financial conditions applicable to Scotland, Ireland and Wales.