

which is the lower limit, of each wage class.

Benefits.

The sickness benefit is equal to two-thirds of the basic wage, this amount being doubled if medical attendance and drugs cannot be given. Treatment in hospital is allowed under certain conditions. Additional benefit may also be given. Medical assistance for the family is also granted as well as funeral benefit.

Conditions of Benefit.

There is no qualifying or waiting period. Benefit is granted for 26 weeks and may be extended to 52 weeks.

Switzerland.

Introduction.

Section 2 of the Federal Insurance Act of 1911 provides that the cantons may make sickness insurance obligatory. A number of cantons have made use of this power, including Appenzell, Basle Town, St. Gall, Thurgau and Zurich.

Persons Insured.

The schemes generally apply to persons of small means irrespective of occupation; the means limit varying with the locality from 300 to 4500 francs for single persons, with generally an allowance for a family.

Contributions.

Contributions are shared between the insured and the public authorities.

Benefits.

Benefits in Appenzell & St. Gall range from 1 to 4 francs a day and are payable for 180 days in each 360 days.

Conditions of Benefit.

In most cases a qualifying period of from six weeks to three months is prescribed.