

the condition in which it is kept, they have power over the occupant of the ambulance if he is charged with a crime, but they have no power over the citizen who has violated no law and who is not charged with any offense. Such a citizen is a free man and can exercise the right of choice, though he be in the public conveyance.

No rule but this will meet the wish of the public on the one hand, and the medical profession on the other. The moment any one of the General Hospitals has its wards filled by any rule of compulsion, that moment will public feeling rise up against it, and nothing can stand against unanimous public sentiment.

THE BRITISH INSURANCE ACT.

At the present moment there are at least 15,000,000 insured against sickness in the United Kingdom. Prior to the Act about one-third of these had made some provision for the rainy day, but for the two-thirds there was nothing but the poor house, if they had no friends who could keep them. A person with an income of 25 shillings a week cannot do much in the way of providing for sickness or age.

Nearly all the workers in Britain at some time have belonged to some friendly society, and not one-third of them are members to-day. The reasons are that the lack of employment or sickness caused them to fall out of the ranks of these benevolent societies for lack of funds to meet their dues. In this way millions of the working classes are forced out of these societies, and have nothing left when sickness overtakes them.

This year the Act has raised £26,000,000; next year the sum will be £29,000,000, and when the Act is in full operation, the amount will be £31,000,000. This money is for the relief of sickness and distress and unemployment, and to provide attendance to the worker and the mother at the time of confinement. The workmen contribute £11,000,000, and the state and the employer the balance. The working classes will be aided to the extent of £20,000,000 when the Act is in full operation.

It is reported that there are now about 18,000 or 20,000 doctors who have signified their willingness to serve under the terms laid down in the Act. The doctors in general practice are the ones who are doing the attendance—just such as the people have always had. There are now over 9,000 chemists who are supplying free drugs under the provisions of the Act. Every week 500,000 persons are attended free by these 18,000 doctors, or 28 persons to each doctor.

The workers have the free choice of the doctor they wish out of the list under Government employment. The Government has the power