

of the insured who form part of his household are entitled to medical assistance and drugs. Funeral benefit on the death of the insured is also paid.

Conditions of Benefit.

No qualifying period is required. Sickness benefit is granted from the third day of incapacity lasting more than three days. Persons insured for at least six consecutive months are protected in case of unemployment for a length of time which varies with the term of his insurance.

Italy.

A Legislative Decree of November, 1925, has confirmed in the former Austrian and Hungarian territories now belonging to Italy the scope of the laws previously in force, with certain modifications. Section 27 of the Labour Code announces that the Government intends to introduce insurance against occupational diseases and tuberculosis as a first step towards insurance against all diseases. A Decree promulgated in October, 1927, provides for compulsory insurance against tuberculosis, and Regulations for the application of the Decree came into effect on July 1, 1928. Insurance is compulsory for paid workers in industry, commerce and agriculture and for seamen. Voluntary insurance is also provided for. The resources of the insurance fund consist of contributions from employers and workers, the total weekly contribution ranging from 1 to 2 lire according to the weekly wage. Benefits include hospital treatment, medical attendance at home and a cash allowance varying from 4 to 6 lire. The right to benefit is conditional upon the payment of at least 12 fortnightly contributions during the two years preceding the worker's application for benefit. The administration is in the hands of the Board of Directors of the National Insurance Fund and a special committee.

Japan.

Introduction.

Compulsory health insurance was established by an Act of 1922.

Persons Insured.

All persons employed in a factory to which the Factory Act applies or in a mine to which the Mining Act applies are, with certain exceptions, subject to compulsory insurance. This includes factories in which ten or more persons are employed or in which the work is of a dangerous or injurious nature, and practically all mines. Temporary employees and administrative employees whose remuneration exceeds 1,200 yen per annum are excluded. Workers in certain groups of undertakings may apply as a group to be insured compulsorily. Voluntary insurance for persons formerly compulsorily insured is also provided.