

ployer's share, 3/9; government's share, 2/9; while the benefits would include (a) medical benefits, (b) cash benefits, (c) maternity benefits.

I have summarized this scheme of state health insurance elsewhere not only to illustrate how widespread its benefits are but also to show how the very essence of the scheme is to prevent disease; because no possible good can come from disease either to the individual, to the employer or to the state. We have seen that in Ontario hospitals there was expended, for maintenance and nursing alone, upon 85,000 persons \$2,752,467, or over \$32 for each, and yet only one person in every 23 received any of the benefit for which the people were taxed over \$1,250,000. The limited benefits, the relatively high cost, and the very unequal distribution of the ratepayers' funds under our present system, are so obvious as to fully emphasize how some comprehensive scheme is required for securing the care of prospective mothers, establishing child welfare bureaus, appointing social service nurses and insuring the general inspection, treatment and physical training of school children and the control, by every means possible, of the health of those who reach the wage-earning period.

Support
of Medical
Opinion

How this can best be done, in view of the experience in Germany since 1883, and during the past six years in England, is no longer a question. The success of Lloyd George's Compulsory Insurance Act, based upon German experience, in spite of the obstinate opposition to it at first, is not now a matter of discussion. The *British Medical Journal*, in a résumé of the report of a committee of the British Medical Association, states:

"The degree of unanimity so far disclosed is somewhat remarkable, and suggests that the scheme, which is proving a distinct gain to the medical profession as well as to the public, be still further extended to the dependents of insured persons, and for providing, when necessary, specialists and nursing services, institutional treatment, maternity attendance, etc., beyond what can be provided by the general medical practitioner."

British
Ministry
of Health

Its benefits have proved most far-reaching, and so positive has become the people's demand, in view of the enormous war losses, for the conservation of the man-power of the nation that a bill has been introduced in the Imperial House of Commons to establish a Ministry of Health, to co-ordinate the many official health services for more effective work. The following abstract of a memorandum, recently presented to the president of the Local Government Board by the representatives of 1,100 medical officers of health, regarding a Ministry of Health, may properly be quoted as representing the best medical opinion in Great Britain: