

necessary, treatment in a hospital. Dependants of persons in hospital receive cash benefit not exceeding half the sickness allowance. Sick persons not in receipt of this family allowance are granted a daily allowance equal to 10 per cent. of their basic wage. Medical treatment for the insured's family is provided as well as funeral benefit. Salaried and intellectual workers receive a basic pension of 40 per cent. of the basic salary, increased by one-sixth per cent. for every month's contribution over and above 120 months, with a maximum allowance of three-fifths of the basic salary.

Conditions of Benefit.

Home workers and temporary workers are entitled to benefit from four to six weeks after entry into insurance. For other persons no qualifying period is prescribed except in case of extension of benefits. Cash benefit is payable from the third day of incapacity. Benefit is paid for 26 weeks or in case of funds which have been in existence for more than three years, for 39 weeks. The rules of the fund may increase this period to 52 weeks. Protection in case of unemployment is given. A salaried or intellectual worker must have contributed to the scheme for at least 60 months.

Portugal.

Introduction.

Compulsory sickness insurance was established by an Act of 1919.

Persons Insured.

Individuals of both sexes who exercise any occupation within the domain of human activity which is recognized as worthy and honest by usage and custom and sanctioned by law, are subject to insurance between the ages of 15 and 75 years if they do not possess an annual income exceeding 900 escudos. Persons whose income exceeds this amount pay contributions but do not receive any benefits in case of sickness. These persons are "born insured".

Contributions.

Three income classes are established but not defined, monthly contributions being from .30 to .50 escudos. The so-called "born insured" pay contributions varying with the income and ranging from .50 to 3.00 escudos.

Benefits.

The rate of benefit varies with the wage class and the length of the illness, and ranges from .30 escudos for the first class during the first 30 days to .06 escudos in the third class during the period from the 90th to the 340th day. Medical relief and free drugs are granted both for the insured and his family.