CHAPTER 10.

An Act to make further provision with respect to the cost of medical benefit and to the expenses of the administration of benefits under the Acts relating to national health insurance, and to amend section twenty-nine of the National Health Insurance Act, 1918, and for purposes connected therewith. [29th May 1924.]

BE it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Provision as to cost of medical benefit and administration expenses.

1.—(1) There shall, in respect of each year during which this Act continues in force, be paid—

(*a*) to insurance committees in England on account of the cost, and the expenses of the administration, of medical benefit, by way of addition to the sums payable under subsection (1) of section seven of the National Health Insurance Act, 1920, and, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed, a sum at such yearly rate as may be prescribed, but not exceeding two shillings and twopence three farthings per year, in respect of each of the total number of the persons in respect of whom payments are made under the said section seven (in this Act referred to as "the total number of persons for the purposes of the said section seven"); and

10 & 11 Geo. 5. c. 10.

(*b*) to the Minister of Health, on account of the expenses incurred by him in connection with the administration of benefits, a sum at such yearly rate as may be prescribed, but not exceeding three halfpence per year, in respect of each of the total number of persons for the purposes of the said section seven.

(2) Such part of the sums to be paid as aforesaid as is not defrayed in pursuance of section three of the National Health Insurance Act, 1911, out of moneys provided by Parliament (hereinafter referred to as "the

1 & 2 Geo. 5. c. 55.

" balance ") shall in each year be provided as follows, that is to say :—

(*a*) there shall be paid by each approved society an amount representing a charge at the rate of seven-ninths of twopence in respect of each of the total number of persons in respect of whom payments are made by the society under the said section seven :

(*b*) there shall be paid out of the moneys in the Central Fund representing sums carried to that fund under section twenty-nine of the National Health Insurance Act, 1918 (which provides for the disposal of sums unclaimed in the Stamp Sales Account), as amended by this Act, an amount representing a charge at the rate of seven-ninths of one shilling and eightpence farthing in respect of each of the total number of persons for the purposes of the said section seven :

7 & 8 Geo. 5. c. 62.

(*c*) the residue of the balance shall be paid out of the sums standing to the credit of the Income Account of the National Health Insurance Fund (Investment) Account in the books of the National Debt Commissioners kept in accordance with the regulations made by the Treasury under subsection (3) of section fifty-four of the National Insurance Act, 1911.

(3) There shall, in respect of every member of an approved society who has attained the age of seventy years in respect of every year during which this Act continues in force, be paid to the Reserve Suspense Fund out of moneys in the Central Fund representing sums carried to that Fund as aforesaid and out of the Income Account mentioned in paragraph (*c*) of the last preceding subsection, amounts at the like rates at which payments are to be made out of the said Fund and the said Account under paragraph (*b*) and paragraph (*c*) respectively of the said subsection.

Payment into Central Fund.

2. Out of the residues of the sums unclaimed in the Stamps Sales Accounts for England, Scotland and Wales respectively, which residues are under section twenty-nine of the National Health Insurance Act, 1918, to be applied in such manner as may be prescribed, there

shall be paid forthwith into the Central Fund the sum of one hundred thousand pounds, and the sum so to be paid shall be apportioned between the said Accounts for England, Scotland and Wales respectively in such manner as the National Health Insurance Joint Committee may direct.

Application of part of sums unclaimed in stamp sales account towards cancellation of arrears.

3.—(1) Such part as the National Health Insurance Joint Committee may direct of the sums which under section twenty-nine of the National Health Insurance Act, 1918, are to be carried to the Central Fund shall, instead of being so carried, be credited to approved societies in accordance with a scheme to be made by the said Committee with the approval of the Treasury, and any sums credited under this section to an approved society shall be applied by the society in such manner as the scheme may provide for the purpose of preventing such members of the society as are in arrears from being or continuing to be suspended from benefit.

(2) This section shall be deemed to have had effect as from the first day of January, nineteen hundred and twenty-three, and shall continue in force until the thirty-first day of December, nineteen hundred and twenty-five.

Payment out of Central Fund for purpose of health insurance in Northern Ireland.

4. There shall, out of moneys in the Central Fund representing sums carried to that Fund under section twenty-nine of the National Health Insurance Act, 1918, as in force in Northern Ireland, be paid to the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland to be applied for the purposes of national health insurance in Northern Ireland in such way as the Parliament of Northern Ireland may direct, such sums as the National Health Insurance Joint Committee shall determine to be proper to be so paid, having regard to the sums paid out of moneys in the Central Fund under this Act for the purposes of national health insurance in Great Britain.

Application to Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

5.—(1) This Act shall apply to Scotland, subject to the following modifications, that is to say:—

(*a*) the Scottish Board of Health shall be substituted for the Minister of Health:

(*b*) one shilling and tenpence halfpenny shall be substituted for two shillings and twopence three farthings:

(*c*) twopence halfpenny shall be substituted for three-halfpence:

(*d*) such sum, if any, as may be prescribed, not exceeding one penny, shall be substituted for twopence:

(*e*) the Scottish National Health Insurance Fund (Investment) Account shall be substituted for the National Health Insurance Fund (Investment) Account:

(*f*) section one of this Act shall have effect as if there were inserted after the word "benefits" in paragraph (*b*) of subsection (1) thereof the words "and the provision of a medical service "for insured persons in such districts of Scot- "land (other than the Highlands and Islands "within the meaning of the Highlands and "Islands (Medical Service) Grant Act, 1913) "as may be determined by the Scottish Board "of Health to be necessitous."

3 & 4 Geo. 5. c. 26.

(2) This Act shall apply to Wales subject to the following modifications, that is to say, two shillings and eightpence farthing shall be substituted for two shillings and twopence three farthings, one penny three farthings shall be substituted for three-halfpence, and the Welsh National Health Insurance Fund (Investment) Account shall be substituted for the National Health Insurance Fund (Investment) Account.

(3) This Act shall not (except as therein otherwise expressly provided) apply to Ireland.

Short title, construction and operation.

6.—(1) This Act may be cited as the National Health Insurance (Cost of Medical Benefit) Act, 1924, and shall be construed as one with the National Health Insurance Acts, 1911 to 1922, and those Acts and this Act may be cited together as the National Health Insurance Acts, 1911 to 1924.

(2) This Act shall (save as therein otherwise expressly provided) be deemed to have had effect as from the first day of January, nineteen hundred and twenty-four, and shall continue in force until the thirty-first day of December, nineteen hundred and twenty-six.