meaning of the National Insurance Act, 1911, during twenty-six weeks, whether consecutive or not, and that twenty-six weekly contributions have been paid in respect of him:

Provided that if such person at any time after the grant of the temporary allowance or gratuity to him becomes entitled to a pension under any such order or warrant, this section shall cease to apply to him.

Provision as to arrears.

3. In calculating arrears of contributions for the purposes of the National Insurance Act, 1911, no account shall be taken of any arrears accruing during any period when the person in question has been subjected to a reduction of, or been disentitled to, sickness and disablement benefit by virtue of this Act.

Power to grant out of the Navy and Army Insurance Fund benefits to persons not at present qualified to receive them. 5 & 6 Geo. 5. c. 15.

4. Regulations of the Insurance Commissioners may provide that any man discharged from service as a seaman, marine or soldier, who is certified by the Admiralty or Army Council to be suffering from any disease or bodily or mental disablement in the manner provided by section one of the National Insurance (Navy and Army) Act, 1914 (Session 2), and who, by reason of his having elected not to pay contributions during the period of his service, or for any other reason, is not qualified under the National Insurance Act, 1911, to receive benefits out of the Navy and Army Insurance Fund, shall, subject to the prescribed conditions, become or continue to be entitled out of that fund to medical and sanatorium benefits.

Short title, interpretation and construction.

5.—(1) This Act may be cited as the National Insurance (Part I. Amendment) Act, 1917, and the National Insurance Acts, 1911 to 1915, so far as they relate to health insurance, and this Act may be cited together as the National Insurance (Health) Acts, 1911 to 1917.

(2) For the purposes of this Act a person shall not be deemed to have been employed in any week unless he proves that the remuneration received in respect of such employment was such as to provide a substantial contribution towards his means of livelihood in that week.

(3) This Act shall be construed as part of Part I. of the National Insurance Act, 1911.

CHAPTER 16.

An Act to enable Meetings of Approved Societies, Friendly Societies, and Trade Unions to be dispensed with during the present War, and for purposes connected therewith.

[17th May 1917.]

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:

1.—(1) Where the executive body of any society approved for the purposes of the National Insurance Acts, 1911 to 1915, or of any friendly society or trade union, whether registered or unregistered, shows to the satisfaction of the appropriate authority that any meeting of members, delegates, or representatives required to be held by the rules or regulations of the society or trade union during the present war is, by reason of the number of persons likely to be assembled and to travel for the purpose of taking part in the meeting, inexpedient, the appropriate authority may, upon the application of such executive body, direct that the holding of the meeting shall be dispensed with.

(2) Where the appropriate authority has given such direction as aforesaid, the existing officers or members of the executive body of the society or trade union who would otherwise have gone out of office shall continue in office until the next meeting at which such officers or members can be appointed or re-appointed is held, as if they had been duly appointed or re-appointed in accordance with the rules or regulations of the society or trade union; and the executive body may, until such meeting is held, exercise and perform such of the powers and duties which might have been exercised and performed by the meeting the holding of which was dispensed with as may be authorised by the appropriate authority, subject, however, to such conditions as the appropriate authority may require.

(3) The appropriate authority may, if it thinks fit, upon the application of the executive body of any such society or trade union as aforesaid, direct that the foregoing subsection shall apply in the case of any society or trade union which during the present war and before the passing of this Act has failed to hold any meeting required by the rules or regulations of the society or trade union, and where such direction is given the foregoing subsection shall apply as if the failure to hold the meeting had been in pursuance of a direction under this Act dispensing with the holding of the meeting.

(4) For the purposes of this section the expression "appropriate authority," in the case of meetings of approved societies for the purpose of conducting business under the National Insurance Acts, 1911 to 1915, means the body by which the society was approved under those Acts, and in the case of meetings of any society or trade union for any other purpose means the registrar as defined by the Friendly Societies Act, 1896. 59 & 60 Vict. c. 25.

2. This Act may be cited as the Societies (Suspension of Meetings) Act, 1917. Short title.