inquiry should be extended. He thought the House should have had the report of the committee before it. At the time this committee was appointed it was understood that it was not then denied that under the terms of reference it would investigate arrangements in this country as well as in France. The medical service in the East ought also to have been included. Sir Henry Craik, and also the doctors of some 5,000 doctors, supported the view that some further form of compulsion was desirable. He had received communications from constituents complaining that certain men in advantageous positions were stealing away the practices of others. It was a very serious question, and it was on that ground very largely that the profession as a whole were in favour of some sort of regulation and organization such as was provided for in the amendment. He welcomed the House accepting the proposal, it felt that it placed a great responsibility upon the authorities. He therefore joined in the appeal that there should be greater exercise of economy of resources on the part of the medical department of the War Office.

Sir Auckland Geddes, in a further reply, said that there had been consultation with the medical profession and with the authorities representing the central governing bodies, and there had been a very strong expression of opinion from the profession that the amendment that the House should be raised to £60. In answer to Mr. Timothy Healy, Sir Auckland said that safeguards for the medical profession in Ireland would be worked along lines similar to those in the Bill. There were committees of representatives of the Royal Colleges, of the British Medical Association, etc., actually working as part of the Public Health Authorities. He added that he felt that the present organization was as far as possible to give part-time work to the medical profession.

The Committee divided on the clause, which was carried by 249 votes to 95.

During the further proceedings in Committee Sir George Cave agreed to modify the proposal and make it clear that this was not in any way to apply to national emergency to medical certificates of exemption en bloc. It was explained that the purpose of the Amendment was to grant a very large number of certificates of exemption on grounds of occupation. The Home Secretary agreed to omit from the scope of possible proclamation men who were engaged in the public health, and also to omit conscientious objectors. The number of cases, he said, in which the tribunals had acted on their own initiative was small, and the views of the medical boards were few; many of the conscientious objectors were of weak physique and deficient in other ways. They were a class of little military value. Thus the power to give for cancelling exemptions by proclamation would be limited to the cases of serious hardship on business or domestic ground. What was in mind was only a period of crisis in which all personal considerations ought to give way. He accepted the Amendment that the question should be put on the table for fourteen days, within which period it would be open for discussion in all parts of the House for another Amendment. Mr. Hayes Fisher explained that it was intended that the Local Government Board should nominate the local tribunals and act in regard to them. The Approved Tribunals would be retained in much the same form as now, but their personnel might be altered. Sir George Cave subsequently understood that Order 2 in the Bill would be carried on the table to which the Order could be added for the men and the National Service Department. The proposed inclusion of the Order was not limited; those who desired to serve could still do so if they had permission from their superiors.

During the discussions Sir Auckland Geddes replied to a number of questions as to his statement last week to the effect that it was estimated that the number of men it was expected to call up and post for service in the army or air force during this year, was 7 per cent.; the remaining 53 per cent. would remain in civil life under conditions precisely similar to those under which men from 35 to 43 were in civil life now; there was no intention to exempt those men who remained in civil life industrially. It was not competent for a tribunal to grant certificates of exemption conditionally upon a man remaining in a specified occupation; the exemption must always be upon the ground that the man was engaged in a certain occupation. He added: "I want to say generally that the whole intention to which reference has been made in this Act is to compel men to do things in civil life." There was no intention that the exemption should be conditional so far as regard to the 83 per cent., nor to depart from the general lines of procedure followed throughout the last two years. It was intended that the young man should not be called upon before drawing upon older men; but while those older men were of course not the first to be exempted, there were of enormous use in connection with the ground work of the Royal Flying Corps, in the Royal Army Medical Corps, in the Ordinance Branch, etc.

On the third reading, Mr. Barnes, the Labour Minister, and Mr. Lloyd George definitely announced that the Government would not allow any consideration to be taken with regard to 83 per cent. or to be taken with regard to Ulster within the authority of an Irish Parliament, and pledged itself to the principle of the measure, in virtue of which the House being rejected by the Lords the Government would resign. It was hoped that the Home Rule Bill would be on the statute book before the conscription provisions operated in Ireland, but the Government was bound to proceed with this provision for Ireland as well as for England and Scotland, and was waiting for the Irish Parliament to be set up, for that operation to take place, lest time and money were wasted.

The Sexual Offences Bill.

Lord Beauchamp has introduced into the House of Lords a Bill entitled "An Act to amend the law with respect to the punishment of sexual offences and with respect to the treatment of venereal diseases and the prevention of indecent advertisements; and matters connected therewith.

Clause 1 makes it an offence, punishable by imprisonment up to two years with or without hard labour, for any person suffering from venereal disease or who has the slightest suspicion of a venereal disease, to solicit, or to invite intercourse with, or wilfully to communicate such disease to another person. False accusations are made punishable by heavy fine on emprisonment or both. Clause 2 for common prostitutes and night-walkers to lose their licenses and privileges for the purpose of prostitution or solicitation, on pain of a month's imprisonment, or to lose their lodgings against brothel keepers and the like. Clause 4 imposes a fine not exceeding £30 upon the occupier of premises used for public entertainment or for the issuing of public notices to the habitual resort, for whatever purpose, of reputed prostitutes. Clause 5 prohibits in the case of any person, the treatment of venereal disease otherwise than by duly qualified medical practitioners, and forbids the advertisement of any such treatment whatever, except by local or public authorities, with the sanction of the Local Government Board, or in publications sent only to medical practitioners as a whole, and retail chemists for the purpose of their business. The penalty for contravention of this clause ranges from a fine not exceeding £100 in case of a first offence, and in the Sexual Diseases Act, 1917, is explicitly repealed. Clause 6 forbids the display or transmission of any picture or printed matter which is of an indecent character, in any advertisement or any advertisement which relates to venereal disease, nervous debility, or the complaint or infirmity arising from or relating to sexual intercourse, or which suggests, directly or indirectly, either the taking of anything for the purpose of procuring miscarriage or abortion, or the use of any device or for immoral purposes. Clause 7 seeks to punish acts of indecency with persons under the age of 17, unless being done in defence, and Clause 8 would amend the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1885, in the same way. Clause 9 gives power to the public authorities to prevent, by regulations, the registration of any medical practitioner who is or was convicted of any of the crimes defined in the Act. This would be a great advantage to the public, as it would enable the authorities to deal with those who are described in the Act as "Sexual Offences Act, 1917."

Appeals on Medical Grounds.—Replying to a question in the House of Commons on April 18th Mr. Hayes Fisher (President of the Local Government Board) said that he was responsible for issuing the regulations, he did not contemplate taking away any rights for appeal on medical grounds to the appeal tribunals. Attended men, alike with untested men, were examined as to their medical fitness for military service by National Service Medical Boards. Attested men had the same rights as unattested men under the rules (which had been issued by the Local Government Board) of applying to the appeal tribunals for leave to be examined by the medical assessors if they were disqualified by the grading by the National Service Medical Board.

Extra Meat Allowance for Invalids.—In reply to Sir Clement Kinloch-Cooke, Mr. Clynnes said there was no evidence that any undue suffering or hardship was caused to invalids under the present food regulations; the deficiency of food was mainly due to the fact that for the most part its qualities that were open in the use of fish, eggs, milk, meat, fats, and other unrationed foods, no food was needful in any way from the stores of battle or even of the public. The Controller was acting throughout in consultation with scientific and medical authorities. The Controller was already aware that some modifications should be made in the regulations. In reply to Sir Henry Craik, he said that the department was in consultation with those concerned as to whether or not some restrictions should be allowed on medical advice to patients suffering from loss of blood after surgical operations.

A Correction.—In the debate last week on the Military Service Bill Sir Donald Maclean (Liberal, East Stirlingshire) asked the National Service would agree that it had been the experience of the last two years that the sickness casualties of men between the ages of 35 and 41 had been less amongst the special reserve as compared with the special reserve and that the special reserve as compared with the special reserve and 35. By a slip of the pen the note last week repeated the first named figures.