

44-19

A HEALTHIER BRITAIN.

Mr. Henry Willink, Minister of Health for England and Wales, talks about the Government's National Health Scheme.

"I've been asked to tell you just a little about the new plan for better health. The Government's idea is a service which will provide the best medical advice and treatment for everyone - every man, woman and child in this country. Whatever your income, if you want to use this service - nobody is going to try and make you if you don't want to - there will be no charge for treatment. The National Health Service will include family doctors, whom you can choose for yourselves, and who will attend you in your own homes when this is necessary. It will cover any medicines you may need; specialist advice; and of course hospital treatment whatever the illness; special care for mothers and children; and a lot of other things besides, in fact every kind of advice and treatment you may need.

This has got to be, not only a full service but also a really human, personal kind of service. We are out to improve the health of every family, and the whole nation. If we cut out the money worries which illness brings, then there would be no reason to put off getting advice and treatment. We could build up good health instead of just trying to mend bad health; Now all the details have been set out in a White Paper and in a shorter pamphlet, and you find there the arrangements the Government propose for the Doctors, the hospitals, the local authorities, and so on. It's not a cut and dried scheme - these proposals are for discussion by Parliament, and we want them talked about by everybody concerned, And you, everyone in this audience, are very much concerned.

.....