

CIVIL DEFENCE AMBULANCES

The Minister of Health, Mr. Ernest Brown, speaking in London this afternoon at a presentation to eleven local authorities of a fleet of ambulances given by the Hearts of Oak Benefit Society, said:

"In London alone the Civil Defence ambulances have carried nearly 50,000 cases. Driving in the black-out, in all weathers, through bombing, calls for steady nerves and high endurance. Standing-by, in the quiet periods, is almost as difficult. I deeply appreciate the patience and patriotism that the ambulance workers have shown.

"We must see that these services are adequate to meet new tests with which they may at any time be faced, but we must not absorb more of the nation's man and woman power than is, on the most stringent view essential for that purpose.

"New establishments are therefore being fixed in all areas. The personnel who remain will be able to make a more active contribution to the national effort during quiet periods. Local authorities are often short of transport for evacuation and public health work, and under arrangements which have now been made, they will be given assistance by the Civil Defence ambulance services."

Twelve ambulances have been given by the Hearts of Oak Benefit Society to mark its centenary. They were presented to-day to the local authorities of the County of London (two), Hull, Cardiff, Plymouth, Bristol, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Southampton, Dover and Glasgow.

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH