

AFTER-THE-RAID SERVICES

The Minister of Health, Mr. Ernest Brown, in a foreword to a booklet on "The Care of the Homeless", issued by the Ministry to members and officers of local authorities and voluntary workers, says:

"This service of help after air raids has grown into a very powerful organisation. It commands the devotion of tens of thousands of workers throughout the country. They are doing great work. I have seen them in action in many areas, and in many different circumstances; and I have been deeply moved by the qualities of heart and mind they bring to the job. Their task, when the bombs drop, is to mobilise the resources of the community - shelter, food, clothes, rehousing, to mention only a few of the more obvious things - to help the sufferers. There is no telling in advance, however, where the bombs will drop, or what disruptive effects they will have on the individual, his home, or the services on which he relies. This service has to be prepared for anything.

"That is the main practical lesson of all the bombing of our towns - preparation in advance. Prepare and test; adjust and test again. As this booklet points out, preparations can never be regarded as perfect and complete.

"I commend the booklet to councillors, officers, voluntary workers, and all who work in the good cause of helping their neighbours during and after enemy air raids."

"The Care of the Homeless" gives an up-to-date summary of after-the-raid services, including rest centres, information centres, publicity, billeting and rehousing. The booklet can be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, York House, Kingsway, W.C.2., price 6d. (post free, 7d.).