

teachers and parents. In many cases, dental inspection is provided for. While this work has been carried on on a considerable scale for but a few years, great benefits have already been realized from it, notably general improvement in health and sanitary conditions both in schools and homes, and in the prevention of epidemics.

In other directions also, governmental activities through Departments of Health have produced numerous evidences of their value, which may be illustrated by an examination of the death rates from various communicable and other diseases, such as those shown in the Population section of the present volume under the heading of "Vital Statistics". An example may be taken from Ontario as being, perhaps, the province in which public health education and activities have reached the highest stage of development. In this province, the rate of deaths from tuberculosis has decreased from 87.1 to 71.0 per 100,000 during the period 1912 to 1921, that from typhoid fever from 19.4 to 7.2 per 100,000, from measles from 4.2 to 1.8, and from whooping cough from 16.2 to 10.5. While some other rates have increased, it may be noted that increases are not general in the case of communicable diseases and that, in respect to tuberculosis especially, the cities of the province show the lowest mortality rates. The reason for this is the fact that public health work is more advanced there than in the towns and rural areas, and its good effect in respect to this and other diseases is apparent. Public health work, indeed, has rendered the development and spread of epidemics of the more common diseases practically impossible.

Institutions.—The most familiar of all public institutions established to administer and foster the general health of the community is the general hospital, common to all cities and towns of any considerable population, and found also in the more modern and prosperous rural districts. Such hospitals are generally erected and supported by the municipality, their actual administration being in the hands of a board of trustees, and their revenue, in addition to that provided by the municipality, being drawn, in the main, from grants from the provincial Government, from donations from individuals and societies and from patients' fees. Admission and treatment are free to all deserving persons who apply for it and whose resources are so limited as to prevent their otherwise receiving proper medical attention. Second in importance are the houses of refuge and orphanages, homes where destitute adults and homeless children are taken in, fed and clothed until they can support themselves or until homes for them are found elsewhere. Orphans' homes are found in practically every urban and rural community of any size, while refuges or homes for the aged are supported by the larger centres and by county municipalities. Asylums for the insane, also found in all the provinces, differ from the foregoing types in that they are in general owned, supported and administered entirely by the province. In Nova Scotia, however, the insane of separate counties are, in some instances, cared for in one institution, together with the inmates of the refuge and orphanage. In addition, other institutions supported by the public include isolation hospitals, maternity hospitals, homes for the deaf, dumb and blind, homes for incurables, infirmaries, homes for epileptics and for lepers, and tuberculosis sanatoria.

Throughout the Dominion many other more or less similar institutions exist, whose nature is more independent than that of the types mentioned above. Among them are included several hospitals supported by the Dominion Government for the benefit of returned soldiers, and numerous small homes and hospitals depending entirely on private aid. Since these institutions do not receive provin-