

cial Government grants and hence are not in all cases subject to inspection, no accurate record showing their number, purpose and the number of inmates can be obtained.

But little historical information on the subject is available. No statistics of public benevolence have been included in the Canada Year Book for several years. It seems, however, that until comparatively recently, the caring for needy and destitute persons, as we now recognize it, was largely in the hands of individuals, of whose humane efforts scanty evidence remains for present use. The inability of private effort to cope with a problem of rapidly increasing dimensions has led to the present government control of the majority of such establishments.

In the exercise of the powers granted them at Confederation, the various provincial governments have enacted considerable legislation governing the regulation of public charities. In Ontario, for example, the Houses of Refuge Act, the Hospitals for the Insane Act, the Private Sanitarium Act, the Sanatoria for Consumptives Act, the Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act and the Prisons and Public Charities Inspection Act have been passed, dealing with different phases of the subject. Similar legislation by other provincial Governments also provides for the carrying on of charitable work, the provision of funds and for inspection by competent officials.

A summary of the work carried on throughout the country, including the activities of the Dominion Department of Health and those of the various provincial Governments, is appended.

### 1.—Dominion Department of Health.

The activities of the Dominion Department of Health for the fiscal year 1923 may be classified under the following eleven headings:—Quarantine Service, Immigration Medical Service, Marine Hospitals Service, Venereal Disease Control, Housing, with Hospitalization and Sanitation, Opium and Narcotic Drugs, Proprietary or Patent Medicines, Child Welfare, Food and Drug Laboratories, Public Works Health Act and Finance.

*Quarantine Service.*—Organized quarantine stations were operated at Charlottetown, P.E.I., Chatham, N.B., Halifax, N.S., Louisbourg, N.S., North Sydney, N.S., Quebec, Que., St. John, N.B., and Victoria, B.C. The total number of vessels reporting at the above stations was 1,897, and of examinations of individuals 289,292. A total of 638 persons was distributed to quarantine hospitals and detention buildings. Of these, 128 were actually sick; the remainder, of whom 331 were detained as possible smallpox contacts, was made up of contacts and persons accompanying the sick. Of the 28 diseases treated in the quarantine hospitals, 59 of the total number of cases were of measles, 9 of scarlet fever, 8 of chicken pox and 8 of diphtheria, the remaining diseases occurring in 5 or fewer cases. A total of 1,772 persons was vaccinated.

*Immigration Medical Service.*—For the purpose of detecting physical or mental defects, 66,480 immigrant passengers were examined; of this number 571 were found to be of the prohibited classes, and 152 others were found upon arrival to require medical or surgical treatment. An additional number of 661 was found to have minor defects, which did not, however, prevent their certification by the medical officers of the service.

The service has under its supervision two leper stations, one at Tracadie, N.B., and the other at D'Arcy island, B.C. Eleven patients were under treatment at the Tracadie lazaretto, six males and five females. One new case was admitted