

during the year and no deaths were reported. Five Chinese patients were cared for during the year at the D'Arcy island lazaretto, the number being unchanged from the previous year.

Marine Hospital Service.—The Department operates two marine hospitals, at Sydney and Lunenburg, N.S., revenues for the purpose being collected on the tonnage of vessels arriving at ports in the Maritime Provinces, Quebec and British Columbia. Gratuitous treatment is accorded all needy mariners from vessels paying such dues. In addition to the two hospitals maintained by the Government, treatment was provided during the year at 52 town and city hospitals in the five provinces to 2,663 injured and distressed mariners.

Venereal Disease Control.—The sum of \$200,000 was voted by the Dominion Government to aid in the prevention of the spread of venereal diseases. This amount is allotted to the various provinces engaged in the work. The campaign carried on throughout the country by the various governments may be divided roughly into five main activities,—treatment, education, social service, law enforcement and the collection of statistics. There are 54 clinics in operation throughout the Dominion, at which free treatment may be obtained, while free hospital accommodation is given where necessary. Both the Dominion and the provincial Governments have issued pamphlets and circulars designed to prevent the spread of the diseases.

Housing, Hospitalization and Sanitation.—Under the Dominion Housing Act, an amount of \$9,550,080 was voted by the Dominion Parliament for the year. Of this sum \$3,225,816 was lent to the seven provinces included in the scheme, to which total loans up to March 31, 1923, amounted to \$20,333,406. The total number of houses erected was 4,612, while those under construction and planned total 223. Municipalities to the number of 160 are operating under the Act.

Opium and Narcotic Drugs.—During the year the Department issued 200 import licenses, 40 export licenses, 110 wholesale druggists' licenses and 56 licenses to retail manufacturing druggists. Narcotics imported into Canada were as follows: cocaine, 3,330 ozs., morphine, 10,998 ozs., and crude opium, 1,373 lbs.

Close supervision is maintained on all exports and imports of narcotics, and the licensing system enables the Department to know at all times the amount of these drugs received by every druggist, veterinary surgeon, dentist or physician in Canada. By this system it is possible for the Department to check up the disposition of these drugs, and to make absolutely certain that the use being made of them does not contravene the Act. While the illicit traffic is a much more difficult problem to handle, no fewer than 692 convictions were obtained during the year. Figures are not available to show the number of convictions other than by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for infractions of the Act for the fiscal year, but for the judicial year ended September 30, 1922, there were in all 1,858 prosecutions, including the Dominion cases.

Proprietary or Patent Medicines.—Medicines registered and licensed under the Proprietary or Patent Medicine Act during the year 1922-23 numbered 4,868. Under the operation of the Act, which has as its fundamental principle the requirement that all such articles shall be on the market in a way which permits the ordinary layman to understand what he is buying, many articles were rejected as absolute frauds and dangerous to health. Periodically, samples of various medicines are obtained in the open market and are sent to the laboratory, for the purpose of confirming and approving the ingredients of each.