

developed and broadened, and at the present time covers all phases of family and community nursing, including such activities as home, school, industrial and hospital nursing, child welfare, social service, clinics, summer camps and general health education.

The nurses belonging to the Victorian Order are carefully selected graduates of recognized training schools, who are given post-graduate training in district nursing by the order. Originally this training was given at training centres established by the order, but since 1921 thirty scholarships of \$400 each are granted annually to enable graduate nurses to take such courses at Canadian universities.

The order offers to the people of any community an efficient public health nursing service best fitted to its needs, as determined by the local committee in consultation with the proper authorities in that community. The central board at Ottawa, through field supervisors, oversees the whole Dominion. At the present time the order operates at 61 centres and maintains hospitals at Chapleau, North Bay, Cochrane, New Liskeard and Whitby. The number of nurses on active duty is 310, and in 1922 a total of 600,000 visits were made.

While the order exists primarily for the poor, a great many people who cannot afford the services of a private nurse avail themselves of the visiting service at a fee commensurate with their circumstances. A large part of the revenue of the order is obtained from this source, and is supplemented by grants, donations and subscriptions. Each district finances itself, while the revenue of the central office is derived from the interest on an endowment fund of \$335,000, and annual grants of \$5,000 from the Dominion Government and of \$2,500 from the Province of Ontario.

### 12.—Mothers' Allowances.

Five of the nine provinces of Canada provide for the payment of allowances to mothers who are widowed or without adequate means of support. The province of Manitoba was the first to take up the work in 1916, and her example has been followed by the other western provinces and by Ontario.

It is a general stipulation under the existing Mothers' Allowances Acts that the mother be a resident of the province at the time of making application, that she be a British subject, generally with two or more children under fourteen years of age or with an insane or totally incapacitated husband and a similar number of children. Other similar requirements regarding residence and means of support are made, for it is not desired that applicants "be considered as applying for charity; but that the mother be regarded as an employee of the State, receiving remuneration for services rendered in the proper care of her children. The mother, as an employee of the government, must not only satisfy them of her fitness to receive an allowance, but also that she is fulfilling the trust which is being placed in her."

In most cases the allowance is provided jointly by the provincial Government and the local government of the municipality in which the applicant is resident, but in some cases—those of mothers resident outside of cities, towns and counties—the whole allowance is paid by the provincial Government. Larger allowances are at times made in cities than in towns and county municipalities, and the basic rate is generally that paid to a mother with two dependent children. Administration of the Acts is as a rule in the hands of a Commission or Superintendent, and is closely allied with other work designed to ameliorate the conditions to which certain sections of the community are subjected. In Ontario and Manitoba, for example, the Acts are administered by Commissions. In the former, the appointment of local boards, in cities, counties and districts, whose duty it is to pass on