

previous to certification. An additional number of 1,270 were detained for closer examination on account of suspected mental or physical defects.

**Marine Hospitals 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 58 town and city hospitals in the five provinces to 2,745 injured and distressed mariners.

**Venereal Disease Control.**—The annual grant by the Dominion Government to aid in the prevention of the spread of venereal diseases was continued and allotted to the various provinces. 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 56 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 \$4,000,000 was voted by the Dominion Parliament for the year. Of this sum, \$3,174,783 was lent to the seven provinces included in the scheme, to which total loans up to March 31, 1924, amounted to \$23,508,190. The total number of houses erected was 6,244. Municipalities to the number of 179 are operating under the Act.

**Opium and Narcotic Drugs.**—During the year, the Department issued 191 import licenses, 51 export licenses, 107 wholesale druggists' licenses and 57 licenses to retail manufacturing druggists. Narcotics imported into Canada were as follows: cocaine 1,561 oz., morphine 7,092 oz. and crude opium 845 lb.

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. Statistics of offences against the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act for the year ended Sept. 30, 1923, show a total of 1,102 convictions. Prosecutions under the same Act by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police during the year ended March 31, 1924, totalled 303.

**Proprietary or Patent Medicines.**—Medicines registered and licensed under the Proprietary or Patent Medicine Act during the year 1923-24 numbered 5,528, including 660 new medicines. 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.

**Child Welfare.**—General co-operation in matters relating to child and maternal welfare has been continued or established with the various Departments of the Dominion Government, Provincial Governments and voluntary societies throughout the country. The publications of the branch have been revised and republished.